Saturday, October 17, 2009 ★★ 14 sections / Vol. 24 / No. 311 P18

'Adopt a school'

THE Insurance Institute is promoting the list of Metro Manila public schools damaged by Tropical Storm "Ondoy." The Insurance Institute had been hesitant until such time that the urgent needs of these places of learning for the student is known. Please adopt a school now. To find out how to do so, please contact Insurance Learning editor Cielo Batad Formoso at 897-8808 to 09 local 306 / Cielo 0923-9102947, Smart 0918-2824061. List on Page A4.

Obama fires back at critics
WORLD / A21

Have you been a victim of cyber-bullying?
ZBUT / D1

State agents suspected behind priest's murder
NEWS / A2

PDI calamity relief drive continues
NEWS / A7

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

'Lupit' roars toward RP

NDCC warns residents in flood-prone areas in Luzon, Visayas

TREES STILL FALLING IN SIERRA MADRE Rough-hewn timber are lined up for sale along the banks of Darukan River in Teresa, Rizal, in this photo taken on Wednesday. The logs were floated down the river from the Sierra Madre mountains where logging is banned. The Sierra Madre runs from Cagayan in the north to Quezon in the south and holds one of the country's last heavily forested areas. RAUL ALBARRACIN/PDI

By Alcuin Papa and Jocelyn R. Uy in Manila
and Rey M. Masol
Inquirer Southern Luzon

THE IRONY OF IT ALL IS NOT only its name—which means "cruel"—but that it is threatening to strike Luzon so soon after two back-to-back storms ravaged wide areas in the country's biggest and most populous island.

A tropical cyclone with an international name "Lupit" yesterday intensified into a storm as it entered the Philippine area of responsibility, packing maximum winds of 95 kilometers per hour and gusting up to 120 kph.

The Pagasa weather bureau said the impact of Lupit—officially referred to by Pagasa as "Rainel" after it entered the Philippine weather monitoring jurisdiction—would not be felt until Sunday.

As of yesterday evening, the third storm to threaten the country in three weeks was spotted 1,800 km east of Virac and moving west northwest at a fairly fast clip of 35 kph in the general direction of northern and Central Luzon, weather experts said.

"We will not feel the effects yet. We will have good weather until Sunday," Pagasa weather forecaster Robert Sawi said.

Pagasa Deputy Administrator Nathaniel Cruz tried to ease fears among people liv-

LUPIT / A8

New protocol set for release of dam water

By Christine O. Avendaño and Amy R. Remo

THE STATE-RUN NATIONAL POWER Corp. (Napocor) yesterday promised to revise its protocol for the release of water from the San Roque Dam in Pangasinan by Nov. 30 to prevent a repeat of the massive flooding in the province last week.

The commitment was made by Napocor officials after admitting at the resumption of the inquiry of the Senate committee on climate change that the protocol on the dam, situated in San Manuel, Pangasinan, needed "updating."

Committee chair Sen. Loren Legar-

NEW PROTOCOL / A3

Leptospirosis still Ondoy's doing, kills 89

By Norman Bordadora

TROPICAL STORM "ONDOY" NOT only dumped a month's supply of rain on Metro Manila and Southern Tagalog on Sept. 26 but also caused more than a year's worth of leptospirosis cases in those regions, Health Secretary Francisco Duque said yesterday.

Quoting data gathered by the Department of Health (DOH) in flood-

LEPTOSPIROSIS / A4

Pro-GMA governors endorse Gibo-Loren tandem

By Michael Lim Ubac and Gil Cabacungan Jr.

A GIBO-LOREN TANDEM FOR 2010?

Governors loyal to the Arroyo administration yesterday endorsed the potential ticket of Defense Secretary Gilbert "Gibo" Teodoro Jr. and Sen. Loren Legarda for the presidential race next year.

The executive committee of the League of Provinces of the Philippines met at Linden Suites in Pasig City and conducted a straw vote.

Only Camarines Sur Gov. Ii Rep Villafuerte and Davao del Sur Gov. Douglas Cagas did not participate, as the two officials are now members of the Nacionalista Party of Sen. Manuel Villar.

The results for the presidency are: Teodoro with 9 votes, Villar, 2, and Aquino, 2. Results for the vice presidency are: Legarda with 7 votes, Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno, 4, and Sen. Manuel Roxas, 2.

"The executive committee is over-

PRO-GMA / A10

Palace: P12-B calamity fund in good hands

By TJ Burgonio and Michael Lim Ubac

DON'T WORRY, GOD IS WATCHING.

Malacañang yesterday allayed fears that the P12-billion relief fund will be diverted for political purposes, saying a reconstruction body headed by a prominent businessman

PALACE / A17

Drama of boy in balloon grips world

FORT COLLINS, COLORADO—A 6-year-old boy feared to have fallen to his death from a homemade helium balloon that had red 80 kilometers through the sky was found hiding in a cardboard box in his family's garage Thursday, ending a riveting drama that transfixed the world.

The discovery marked a bizarre end to a saga that started when the giant silvery balloon broke loose and floated away from the family's yard, sparking a frantic rescue operation that involved military helicopters and

hailed some departures from Denver International Airport.

US cable news networks interrupted coverage of a tense ball meeting by President Barack Obama to broadcast live footage of the saucer-shaped

DRAMA / A11

AFP ready to welcome 11 soldiers

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE ARMED FORCES YESTERday said it was ready to welcome back 11 soldiers, including a deposed Army officer, who were acquitted by a military court of charges that they plotted a coup against President Macapagal-Arroyo in 2006.

"They have the options to go back to service," said AFP spokesperson Lt. Col. Romeo Brawner Jr. of the 11 soldiers who were ordered re-

AFP READY / A17

House approves ₱1.54-trillion budget for 2010

By Leila B. Salaverria

A NEW DAY, A NEW BUDGET. The House of Representatives pulled an all-nighter on Thursday, approving on second reading the P1.54-trillion budget for 2010 at dawn yesterday, after handling the most contentious part of the budget process—the debates on the individual allocations for each government department.

The 2010 budget is 8.1 percent higher than the P1.414-trillion budget for 2009, with the bulk of the spending allotted for interest payments on government obligations that are maturing next year and for salary increases of government personnel. Interest payments increased by 198.2 billion to P346.8 billion.

The House approved the measure on second reading after a 17-hour session that ended at 2:41 a.m. yesterday following two weeks of marathon debates.

Approval on third and final reading is expected when Congress returns from its recess next month, said Speaker Prospero Nograles. The approved

HOUSE / A17

WEATHER FORECAST

TODAY: Localized showers mostly cloudy skies with isolated thunderstorms and thunderstorms while the rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated thunderstorms or rain showers.

Metro Manila	Mostly Cloudy	Northeastern	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Mostly Cloudy	Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Mostly Cloudy	Cubao	Partly Cloudy
Iloilo	Mostly Cloudy	Surallah	Partly Cloudy
Cebu	Mostly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Dagupan	Mostly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Mostly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Mostly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Complete weather information on page A-16

Second FRONTPAGE

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EZ2*
15 27 | 4 5 3 8

SUERTRES*
9 4 4 | 8 8 4

FOUR DIGIT*
7 6 3 4 | 7 5 8

MEGALOTTO 6/45
2 11 17 20 38 45
P4,622,556.60

State agents suspected behind Lucero slay

By Nikko Dizon

A FACT-FINDING MISSION YESTERDAY ACCUSED STATE agents of carrying out the brazen daylight ambush of Catubig, Samar parish priest Fr. Cecilio Lucero as part of "Oplan Bantay Laya," the government's counter-insurgency program.

The fact-finding mission upon headed by human rights watchdog Karapatan, the Permanent Council for People's Response (PCPR), and the Diocese of Catarman yesterday presented their conclusions at the Bantayog ng mga Bayani auditorium in Quezon City.

"Fr. Cecilio Lucero's killing shows the patterns attendant to the many cases of extrajudicial killings in the country. He name-hating atmosphere of the Military Intelligence report and his death is no coincidence," the fact-finding mission said.

It noted how Lucero had been repeatedly accused by the military as a member of the New People's Army (NPA).

Sought for comment, military spokesperson Lt. Col. Ramon Zagala said the Armed Forces "welcome" the investigation by the fact-finding mission as part of the "due process."

Brawner stressed that the military "does not tolerate the wrongdoings" of its officers and men.

The fact-finding mission also wants an independent investigation into Lucero's bodyguard, PO2 Eugene Barron, who was wounded while the priest was dead and three companions wounded.

Fr. Lucero, 68, was gunned down on Sept. 6 by still unidentified armed men as he drove along a highway going to his parish, St. Joseph Church, in Catubig town.

A brother of Northern Samar Bishop Emeritus Luciano and former Northern Samar Rep. Wilfrido Lucero, the slain priest was known in the province as a staunch human rights defender.

At the time of his death, Lucero was the chair of the human rights desk of the Social Action Center of the Diocese of Catarman and a member of the PCPR in Northern Samar.

According to PCPR, Lucero was the 36th victim of extrajudicial killings from the Church sector under the Arroyo administration.

The fact-finding mission pointed out how Lucero had "threatened" a recent case in the municipality of Lope de Vega where two men were killed in what was allegedly a strafing incident involving the military.

The fact-finding mission reported that while the army said it was a "legitimate" encounter with the NPA, the lone survivor in the incident, whom Lucero had placed under his care, claimed otherwise.

Despite Lucero's killing, his colleagues are not mourning in fear, his superior and close friend, Msgr. Pedro Dechico, vicar general of Catarman, told the bayanan.

"In fact, his death emboldened us into continuing Fr. Cec's legacy," Dechico, 58, said.

Fr. Fernando Sugcang, parish priest of Lavezares town, said Fr. Lucero was the first Catholic priest in the Arroyo regime to be killed in such a manner.

Both Dechico and Sugcang said they have reason to believe the military could be behind Lucero's death.

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		35,000	85,000	70,000	80,000
		45,000	95,000	90,000	100,000

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AFP: We know exactly where Sinnot is held

ZAMBOANGA—THE MILITARY SAID YESterday it knows exactly where an elderly kidnapped Irish priest was being held in Mindanao and rescue had been made with his abductors.

Five days after 79-year-old Michael Sinnott was snatched at gunpoint from his missionary compound, the military's spokesman appeared to offer some hope for the ailing priest who suffers from heart problems.

"The kidnappers have seen ... some hesitancy," Maj. Gen. Benjamin Dolorfino, chief of the Western Mindanao Command, told reporters here. "The concern was more on medicine."

Dolorfino would not elaborate on who the kidnappers contacted, or give their identities, but the sending out of feelers appeared to show that the abductors had responded to appeals that Sinnott's life was in danger without daily medications for his heart problems.

Sinnott was taken at gunpoint from his home at the Missionary Society of Saint Columban compound in Pagadian City on Sunday night.

The military said a local pirate had taken him by boat east to the Lanao coast and might have moved him even to a local leader of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

However the MILF leadership has denied any of its commanders were involved, and insist it is helping to secure Sinnott's release.

Dolorfino said yesterday that his troops know where Sinnott was being held.

"We have already located the exact place where Father Sinnott was taken," he said. "We are not conducting a rescue operation because we want to give a chance for the peaceful recovery of the hostaged priest."

Meanwhile, the head of the Columban commission in the Philippines, Brenda O'Donoghue, denied media reports that the abductors had contacted the order. AFP

Reyes clears oil firms of predatory pricing

By Amy R. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY has cleared oil companies of alleged unbridled and predatory pricing after completing a review of their financial statements.

"The DOE had already taken a review of their books and had found everything in order," said Energy Secretary Angelo T. Reyes.

Reyes said, however, that he had ordered another audit of the oil companies' books, adding that the DOE intends to conduct regular audits to guard against any form of price manipulation.

Early this year, the DOE ordered big oil companies, as well as independent oil producers and importers, to submit their 2008 audited financial statements to find out if the oil firms were "running reasonably."

A previous study jointly conducted by the SGV-ICA and University of Asia and the Pacific had already cleared the oil companies, particularly Pilipinas Shell, Petron Corp., two of the country's major oil players.

The independent study covering the period January 2005 to January 2008 stated that "if the oil companies have been over-pricing, it should show up on higher profit rates. However, the adjusted return on equity figures for Petron and Shell do not appear to be extraordinary when compared with the benchmark interest rate."

Meanwhile, Reyes reminded oil companies to be "total consumers" of all oil companies as he asked them to lower the prices of petroleum products to share in the heavy public burden of rebuilding the nation after the onslaughts of typhoons Ondoy and Pepeng.

Samsung and Fitch collaborate for the Samsung I Imagine Shoot-out Making Contest. The online effort seeks to stimulate the youth's imagination and encourages them to speak about their hopes, dreams, and passions. This youth campaign is inspired by the theme, "When Imagination Meets Passion" and utilizes the Internet and fastest retail to evoke freedom of expression among the youth. Standing (Left to Right): Pam Roque (Country Director, CHEIL Worldwide for Samsung Electronics), Coco Domingo (Marketing Communications Manager - IMPP and IT, Samsung Electronics Philippines Corporation), MT De Jesus (Account Director, CHEIL Worldwide for Samsung Electronics) Seated (Left to Right) – Owen Bobadilla (Managing Director, "EGELAJ MANILA"), Glenn Dilinga (Marketing Director, Samsung Electronics Philippines Corporation), Ronald Pineda (President, Fitched and Hung), and Alain Blanzon (Vice President - Sales and Marketing, Fitched and Hung)

Time bomb ticks in AFP, Biazon says

By Michael Lim Ubac

SEN. RODOLFO BIAZON YESTERDAY insisted that the ballooning fund requirement for pensions and retirement benefits of retired soldiers represented a "ticking time bomb" in the armed forces of the Philippines (AFP) if not quickly resolved.

"We have a time bomb on our hands. What is that? The future cost of the required (pension). There will come a time that we will have to do something radical," said Biazon, former AFP chief of staff and himself a retiree.

Under the law, the pension of retired AFP soldiers must be increased when the salaries of soldiers in active duty are adjusted.

During deliberations of the proposed P66-billion defense budget for 2010, Biazon warned that the AFP would face a budget crisis soon because the pensions and retirement benefits of retired soldiers had no funding source.

Currently, a third of the military budget is earmarked for "maintenance and other operating expenses," which include salaries.

The allocation for pensions is ranked seventh in another item in the General Appropriations Act called Special Purpose Fund, which will cost P32 billion. Such is for interests under the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office and the AFP general headquarters' plan (Re).

Biazon asked Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro Jr. to form a "study group" before "the bomb explodes in our face."

The group, he said, should be tasked with looking for ways to fund the pension operations, including forming an office like the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), that would serve the needs of AFP pensioners.

"When that time comes, we in the government should seriously consider changing the pension and retirement benefits structure," said Biazon.

Teodoro suggested that a portion of proceeds from the sale of former military bases could be used to fund a new pension scheme rather than be set aside for modernization purposes.

DFA warns public vs Internet scam

THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS yesterday ventured in warning to the public against the Internet-based "419 Scam" following reports that individuals allegedly from Nigeria were able to successfully hack the e-mail accounts of relatives in Manila and solicited money from the Filipino's friends.

The latest incident, reportedly the Philippine Embassy in Nigeria, is another version of the scam which involves hacking the victim's e-mail accounts and using it to solicit money from unsuspecting friends and relatives of the victim, according to the DFA.

Under the scam/internet conduct operation, the victim's relatives and friends receive e-mails purportedly from the victim claiming he was robbed while in Nigeria, and asking them to send $2,500 so the victim can return to Manila.

The DFA has issued many previous advisories against Internet-based scams said to be evident most by Nigeria-based fraudsters.

Previous schemes involved sending e-mails to unsuspecting victims promising employment to Nigeria, bank loans, lottery winnings or double-your-money schemes using Filipino names as potential victims, such as overseas Filipino workers and other job applicants in the Philippines.

The syndicate requires the recipient to remit money to a particular bank account in Nigeria, supposedly as payment for application fees, taxes and other processing fees.

Jeannette Andrade

STORMS' AFTERMATH

21st Ad Congress moved to Subic

THE TRIAL OF DESTRUCTION across northern Luzon left by Tropical Storms "Ondoy" and "Pepeng" has forced the advertising Board of the Philippines (Adboard) to hold the 21st Philippine Advertising Congress (PAC) closer to Metro Manila instead of Baguio as originally planned.

"It is with reluctance that we withdraw from Baguio, as the city has been most supportive and gracious to the 21st PAC from the planning stages right until this moment when preparations are near completion," the PAC said on its website.

Instead, the ad congress scheduled on Nov. 28-21 will take place in Subic.

"We have never doubted Baguio's resilience nor its resilience to accommodation the 21st PAC in spite of the disaster that the hotbed strain thousands of delegates and participants would subject the already threatened northern Luzon infrastructure would put their safety and that of the local people's at risk," the PAC said.

Despite the short notice and various requirements, Subic authorities have readily agreed to host the 21st CPAC.

Dedicated to victims

The sufferings of the victims of Ondoy and Pepeng are not lost on the advertising industry.

"The 21st PAC is the best time for the industry to come together and reaffirm our unity in brotherhood in the spheres' victims and to respond in the aid of nation rebuilding. Our economy need not come to a standstill. We must help drive the local economy back on its feet," the PAC said.

"We dedicate the 21st PAC to the victims of the northern Luzon calamity. But of our proceeds will be donated to the Red Cross for rehabilitation efforts in northern Luzon. That ad congress has heart and a cause. We enjoin all members of the industry to be an active part of this endeavor," it added.

Correction

IN THE OCT. 16 ISSUE, Rio Fresnillos-Prieto's "Beankeat I" column on Page B2 of the Lifestyle Sections and Beauty section—"Zooming in on Bonghong"—misspelled the name of a Batish ballerina. Her name is Margot Fonteyn...not Margaret Fontaine.

...

Readers may send their requests for corrections/clarifications/errors at writing to the Star Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 7th Floor, INQ Building, Ortigas Ave., Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila, Philippines 1550; fax (632) 896-6214; e-mail address: stardesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to the Public Editor, e-mail address: publiceditor@inquirer.com.ph or fax this (632) 410-0642. Attn: The Publiceditor. (All phone numbers in 897-0000 block.)

List of Metro Manila schools damaged by 'Ondoy'

Continued from yesterday

MAKATI

Schools	Damage
ELEMENTARY	
1. Cembo ES	Flooded
2. San Antonio ES	Damaged ground floor, books and furniture
3. Makati ES	Flooded
4. Pio del Pilar ES	Flooded
SECONDARY	
5. Cembo HS	Flooded
6. San Antonio HS	Computer supplies, books

MUNTINLUPA

Schools	Damage
ELEMENTARY	
1. Alabang ES	Some walking and damaged classrooms, 20 cabinets and 40 tables and chairs
2. Poblacion ES	Flooding, some walking and damaged classrooms
3. Tunasan ES	Flooding, some walking and damaged classrooms
4. Alabang ES	Flooding, some walking and damaged classrooms
5. Buli ES	Flooding, some walking and damaged classrooms
6. Bayanan ES	Flooding, some walking, damaged classrooms, computers
7. Cupang ES	Flooding, some walking and damaged classrooms
8. Putatan ES	Flooding, some walking, damaged classrooms
SECONDARY	
9. Muntinlupa Science HS	Damaged classrooms
10. Alabang HS	Damaged classrooms

MARIKINA

Schools	Damage
1. Barangka ES	Classrooms, furniture, books, computers
2. Concepcion ES	Classrooms, furniture, books, computers
3. Fortune ES	Classrooms, furniture, books, computers
4. Malanday ES	Classrooms, furniture, books, computers
5. Nangka ES	Classrooms, furniture, books, computers
6. Industrial Valley ES	Classrooms, furniture, books, computers
7. Sta. Elena ES	Classrooms, books, computers
8. Tumana ES	Classrooms, furniture, books, computers
9. Marikina Elementary School	Classrooms, furniture, books, computers
10. Malanday HS	Classrooms, furniture, books, computers
11. Nangka HS	Classrooms, furniture, books, computers
12. Sto. Niño ES	Classrooms, furniture, books, computers
13. Tumana HS	Classrooms, furniture, books, computers
14. Marikina HS	Classrooms, furniture, books, computers
15. Concepcion HS	Classrooms, furniture, books, computers
16. Fortune HS	Classrooms, furniture, books, computers
17. Nangka HS	Classrooms, furniture, books, computers
SECONDARY	
18. Barangka HS	Classrooms, furniture, books, computers
19. Malanday HS	Classrooms, furniture, books, computers
20. Marikina Science HS	Classrooms, furniture, books, computers
21. Sto. Niño HS	Classrooms, furniture, books, computers
22. Concepcion Integrated HS	Classrooms, furniture, books, computers

LAS PIÑAS

Schools	Damage
ELEMENTARY	
1. Talon I ES	Flooded rooms
2. Talon II ES	Flooded rooms
3. Talon III ES	Flooded rooms
4. Talon IV ES	Flooded rooms
5. Talon V ES	Flooded rooms
6. Daniel Aguado ES	Flooded rooms
7. Dr. Filemon Aguilar Memorial ES	Flooded rooms
8. Pamplona ES	Flooded rooms
9. Pulang Lupa ES	Flooded rooms
10. Pulang Lupa II ES	Flooded rooms
11. Talon Uno ES	Flooded rooms
12. Zapote ES	Flooded rooms
13. Zapote II ES	Flooded rooms
14. Zapote III ES	Flooded rooms
15. Zapote IV ES	Flooded rooms
16. Zapote V ES	Flooded rooms
17. Zapote Bridge ES	Flooded rooms
18. Zapote Bridge II ES	Flooded rooms
19. Zapote Bridge III ES	Flooded rooms
20. Zapote Bridge IV ES	Flooded rooms
21. Zapote Bridge V ES	Flooded rooms
22. Zapote Bridge VI ES	Flooded rooms
23. Zapote Bridge VII ES	Flooded rooms
24. Zapote Bridge VIII ES	Flooded rooms
25. Zapote Bridge IX ES	Flooded rooms
26. Zapote Bridge X ES	Flooded rooms
27. Zapote Bridge XI ES	Flooded rooms
28. Zapote Bridge XII ES	Flooded rooms
29. Zapote Bridge XIII ES	Flooded rooms
30. Zapote Bridge XIV ES	Flooded rooms
31. Zapote Bridge XV ES	Flooded rooms
32. Zapote Bridge XVI ES	Flooded rooms
33. Zapote Bridge XVII ES	Flooded rooms
34. Zapote Bridge XVIII ES	Flooded rooms
35. Zapote Bridge XIX ES	Flooded rooms
36. Zapote Bridge XX ES	Flooded rooms
37. Zapote Bridge XXI ES	Flooded rooms
38. Zapote Bridge XXII ES	Flooded rooms
39. Zapote Bridge XXIII ES	Flooded rooms
40. Zapote Bridge XXIV ES	Flooded rooms
41. Zapote Bridge XXV ES	Flooded rooms
42. Zapote Bridge XXVI ES	Flooded rooms
43. Zapote Bridge XXVII ES	Flooded rooms
44. Zapote Bridge XXVIII ES	Flooded rooms
45. Zapote Bridge XXIX ES	Flooded rooms
46. Zapote Bridge XXX ES	Flooded rooms
47. Zapote Bridge XXXI ES	Flooded rooms
48. Zapote Bridge XXXII ES	Flooded rooms
49. Zapote Bridge XXXIII ES	Flooded rooms
50. Zapote Bridge XXXIV ES	Flooded rooms
51. Zapote Bridge XXXV ES	Flooded rooms
52. Zapote Bridge XXXVI ES	Flooded rooms
53. Zapote Bridge XXXVII ES	Flooded rooms
54. Zapote Bridge XXXVIII ES	Flooded rooms
55. Zapote Bridge XXXIX ES	Flooded rooms
56. Zapote Bridge XL ES	Flooded rooms
57. Zapote Bridge XLI ES	Flooded rooms
58. Zapote Bridge XLII ES	Flooded rooms
59. Zapote Bridge XLIII ES	Flooded rooms
60. Zapote Bridge XLIV ES	Flooded rooms
61. Zapote Bridge XLV ES	Flooded rooms
62. Zapote Bridge XLVI ES	Flooded rooms
63. Zapote Bridge XLVII ES	Flooded rooms
64. Zapote Bridge XLVIII ES	Flooded rooms
65. Zapote Bridge XLIX ES	Flooded rooms
66. Zapote Bridge L ES	Flooded rooms
67. Zapote Bridge LI ES	Flooded rooms
68. Zapote Bridge LII ES	Flooded rooms
69. Zapote Bridge LIII ES	Flooded rooms
70. Zapote Bridge LIV ES	Flooded rooms
71. Zapote Bridge LV ES	Flooded rooms
72. Zapote Bridge LVI ES	Flooded rooms
73. Zapote Bridge LVII ES	Flooded rooms
74. Zapote Bridge LVIII ES	Flooded rooms
75. Zapote Bridge LIX ES	Flooded rooms
76. Zapote Bridge LX ES	Flooded rooms
77. Zapote Bridge LXI ES	Flooded rooms
78. Zapote Bridge LXII ES	Flooded rooms
79. Zapote Bridge LXIII ES	Flooded rooms
80. Zapote Bridge LXIV ES	Flooded rooms
81. Zapote Bridge LXV ES	Flooded rooms
82. Zapote Bridge LXVI ES	Flooded rooms
83. Zapote Bridge LXVII ES	Flooded rooms
84. Zapote Bridge LXVIII ES	Flooded rooms
85. Zapote Bridge LXIX ES	Flooded rooms
86. Zapote Bridge LXX ES	Flooded rooms
87. Zapote Bridge LXXI ES	Flooded rooms
88. Zapote Bridge LXXII ES	Flooded rooms
89. Zapote Bridge LXXIII ES	Flooded rooms
90. Zapote Bridge LXXIV ES	Flooded rooms
91. Zapote Bridge LXXV ES	Flooded rooms
92. Zapote Bridge LXXVI ES	Flooded rooms
93. Zapote Bridge LXXVII ES	Flooded rooms
94. Zapote Bridge LXXVIII ES	Flooded rooms
95. Zapote Bridge LXXIX ES	Flooded rooms
96. Zapote Bridge LXXX ES	Flooded rooms
97. Zapote Bridge LXXXI ES	Flooded rooms
98. Zapote Bridge LXXXII ES	Flooded rooms
99. Zapote Bridge LXXXIII ES	Flooded rooms
100. Zapote Bridge LXXXIV ES	Flooded rooms
101. Zapote Bridge LXXXV ES	Flooded rooms
102. Zapote Bridge LXXXVI ES	Flooded rooms
103. Zapote Bridge LXXXVII ES	Flooded rooms
104. Zapote Bridge LXXXVIII ES	Flooded rooms
105. Zapote Bridge LXXXIX ES	Flooded rooms
106. Zapote Bridge XC ES	Flooded rooms
107. Zapote Bridge XCI ES	Flooded rooms
108. Zapote Bridge XCII ES	Flooded rooms
109. Zapote Bridge XCIII ES	Flooded rooms
110. Zapote Bridge XCIV ES	Flooded rooms
111. Zapote Bridge XCV ES	Flooded rooms
112. Zapote Bridge XCVI ES	Flooded rooms
113. Zapote Bridge XCVII ES	Flooded rooms
114. Zapote Bridge XCVIII ES	Flooded rooms
115. Zapote Bridge XCIX ES	Flooded rooms
116. Zapote Bridge C ES	Flooded rooms
117. Zapote Bridge CI ES	Flooded rooms
118. Zapote Bridge CII ES	Flooded rooms
119. Zapote Bridge CIII ES	Flooded rooms
120. Zapote Bridge CIV ES	Flooded rooms
121. Zapote Bridge CV ES	Flooded rooms
122. Zapote Bridge CVI ES	Flooded rooms
123. Zapote Bridge CVII ES	Flooded rooms
124. Zapote Bridge CVIII ES	Flooded rooms
125. Zapote Bridge CIX ES	Flooded rooms
126. Zapote Bridge CX ES	Flooded rooms
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156. Zapote Bridge CXL ES	Flooded rooms
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161. Zapote Bridge CXLV ES	Flooded rooms
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165. Zapote Bridge CXLIX ES	Flooded rooms
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207. Zapote Bridge CXCI ES	Flooded rooms
208. Zapote Bridge CXCII ES	Flooded rooms
209. Zapote Bridge CXCIII ES	Flooded rooms
210. Zapote Bridge CXCIV ES	Flooded rooms
211. Zapote Bridge CXCV ES	Flooded rooms
212. Zapote Bridge CXCVI ES	Flooded rooms
213. Zapote Bridge CXCVII ES	Flooded rooms
214. Zapote Bridge CXCVIII ES	Flooded rooms
215. Zapote Bridge CXCIX ES	Flooded rooms
216. Zapote Bridge CC ES	Flooded rooms
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466. Zapote Bridge CDL ES	Flooded rooms
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468. Zapote Bridge CDLII ES	Flooded rooms
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Relief caravan leaves Monday for N. Luzon

By Nikko Dizon and TJ Burgonio

A HUNDRED TRUCKLOADS OF relief goods will make their way to the victims of Tropical Storm "Pepeng" on Monday in a government-led caravan that the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) said would benefit some 500,000 affected families.

President Macapagal-Arroyo will lead the send-off ceremony for the caravan at the Shoreline Macapagal Avenue in Pasay City on Monday at 8 a.m., Social Welfare and Development Secretary Esperanza Cabral said in a statement.

Cabral said the relief goods would be distributed to victims of Pepeng in 19 provinces in the Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon and the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR).

Cabral added the project, dubbed as "Sama-Samang Pagsalong Relief Caravan," has the support of several national government agencies and more than 30 private and humanitarian organizations.

The private organizations include the World Food Programme, United Nations Children's Fund, United States Agency for International Development, Ayala Foundation, World Vision, Smile Foundation, Ronald McDonald Charities, and Jollibee Foundation, among others.

"The representatives of the different government agencies, private and international organizations pledged goods consisting of potable water, food and clothing packs while other organizations will provide logistics support such as transportation and manpower during the caravan," Cabral said.

The drop-off points for the relief goods will be in the following areas: Lingayen City (Pangasinan) and San Fernando (La Union) for Region I; Baguio City (Benguet), Bontoc (Mountain Province) and Tabuk City (Kalinga) for Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR); Cauayan City (Isabela), Bayombong (Nueva Vizcaya) and Tuguegarao City (Cagayan) for Region II; Malolos (Bulacan), San Fernando (Pampanga), Cabanatuan City (Nueva Ecija) and Tarlac City (Tarlac) for Region III, and Rangued (Abra) and Baguio City for CAR.

The Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., its subsidiary Smart Communications, Inc., and the PLDT-Smart Foundation (PSF) have also launched relief operations.

In Pangasinan, the PSF distributed relief packs in Barangays Tumana East, Tumana West and Carmay in the municipality of Sison; San Joaquin, San Juliano and San Marcelino in Balungao, and Lomboy in Villasis.

The distribution of relief goods to residents of Dagupan, San Nicolas, Urdaneta and Natividad is in the works, the PSF said.

Libreng Sinag centers have also been set up at the Lingayen Hall of San Joaquin, San Juliano and San Marcelino in Balungao and at the community hall in Rosales to enable affected residents to make free calls and charge their cell phones.

Similar centers are operating in four areas in Baguio City and in Barangay Pugo, La Trinidad, Benguet.

Relief efforts for affected communities in Baguio and in Benguet are also being arranged by Smart in coordination with its partners and local government units.

MEDICAL TENT Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) chair Sen. Richard J. Gordon visits the first PNRC Medical Station set up at the PhilSpacecenter (formerly Ultra) to treat diseases and prevent their spread in the evacuation centers. It can accommodate 100 patients.

NPA rebels, military join rehab efforts

COMMUNIST NEW PEOPLE'S army rebels have extended a ceasefire with government troops to help rebuild areas hit by storms where more than 750 people died in landslides and floods, a rebel spokesperson said yesterday.

Government forces also said they had enforced efforts from internal security in clear roads and deliver food and relief.

A spokesperson for communist guerrillas, Gloria Montano, issued a statement on www.philippinerevolution.net saying the insurgents had declared a seven-day ceasefire to help rebuild communities.

The ceasefire is "to assist in relief, retrieval and rehabilitation efforts for the victims of the recent disasters," the statement said.

The ceasefire, which began on Thursday, applies in the northern areas of Luzon that suffered major landslides and floods after tropical storm "Pepeng" pounded the region with rain for a week from Oct. 3, killing at least 419 people.

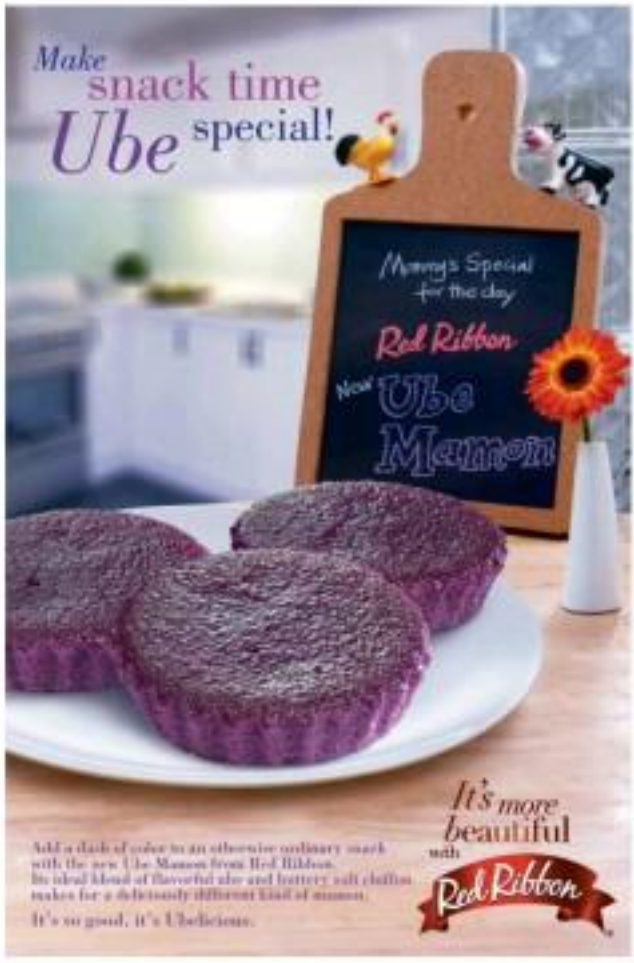
This follows reports that the insurgents had declared a similar unilateral ceasefire in areas affected by storm "Ondoy" which hit further south on Luzon on Sept. 26, causing huge floods and killing at least 294 people.

Military spokesperson Lt. Col. Romeo Brawner said troops were distributing relief supplies in northern Luzon.

"We're suspending internal security operations to focus on recovery, relief and rehabilitation efforts in landslide and flood-hit areas in the north," he said.

Wide areas in northern Luzon remain inaccessible due to the landslides set off by rains from Pepeng. With power, communications and transport still to be restored, these areas can only be reached by helicopter or days of trekking.

The two storms, in as many weeks, destroyed at least P28.4 billion worth of crops and fisheries and about P6.6 billion worth of infrastructure.



P100-B stimulus fund diverted to rehabilitate damaged areas

By Abigail L. Ho

THE P100-BILLION STIMULUS FUND THE government and the private sector agreed to split evenly to bankroll infrastructure projects had been redirected to flood rehabilitation efforts nationwide.

Roberto Ampatu, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry vice president for agriculture and food security, said the country's economic managers would be the ones to decide how the stimulus fund would be spent and schools repair and rehabilitation projects would be prioritized.

"Their decision will depend on overall rehabilitation requirements," he told reporters yesterday.

Infrastructure needing immediate attention, he said, included farm to market roads and bridges in northern Luzon, particularly those leading to Pangasinan and Baguio City.

PCCI chair emeritus Donald Dee explained that some projects already identified under the stimulus package would have to take a back seat as repair and rehabilitation activities on infrastructure damaged by Tropical Storm "Ondoy" and Typhoon "Pepeng" would have to be prioritized.

Projects such as further extension of the Edsa Metro Rail Transit 3 and the Light Rail Transit would have to wait until next year, he said.

For infrastructure repair and rehabilitation, he said the government's P10 billion contingent funding under the public-private stimulus program would be used as this remained intact.

The private sector's P50-billion contribution had already been rated, mainly for road projects such as the extension of C5 to the North Luzon Expressway.

"The government would have to fund the repair and rehabilitation of damaged infrastructure if no subsidy is likely to fund the such projects since they will have no return. Right now, this is the priority," he said.

"The extension of the MRT and the LRT will not be undertaken until next year. I don't think anybody will be thinking of those projects now. Priority will be rehabilitation," he further said.

He said the government had yet to decide which repair and rehabilitation projects would be prioritized.

THREE MEN AND A BABY Members of the Olongapo Rescue Team carry a baby to safety in Olongapo City, Pangasinan, at the height of Tropical Storm "Pepeng." The multiawarded rescuers were dispatched by Mayor James "Bong" Gordon Jr. to help in rescue and relief efforts. MACH ARGUETA/PDI

Labor Party Lapiang Manggagawa endorses Ebdane's Presidential bid

Reinforcing the support of political leaders and civil society groups from Mindanao and the Visayas, for Public Works and Highways Secretary Ebdane's Presidential bid, the Labor Party Lapiang Manggagawa (LM), the country's third oldest Political Party today announced its "all-out" support for him in the 2010 Presidential derby.

LM Presidential Lawyer Jose Malvar Villegas Jr., said although Secretary Ebdane's chances had been down-played by some quarters, he is the "dark horse" that can make the difference in the presidential election, being a "non-traditional politician", and the bureaucrat of "impeccable integrity."

Villegas, a co-founder of Lakas Tao party, the precursor of the Lakas-NUCD-UMDP and major founder of the Reforma-LM coalition under which former Defense Secretary Renato C. De Villa ran for president in 1998, predicted that Secretary Ebdane can be the "alternative" choice for President as he is an honest government worker who has never been involved in irregularities, not to mention his being accessible to all sectors, especially the poor and the under-previleged. That qualifies him as leader of a future labor government once the LM wins the presidency and other local and national elective positions.

"His experience as PNP Director-General, National Security Adviser, DILG Secretary and lately as DPWH Secretary speaks well of his capacity and competence to extricate our country from various problems spawned by political bickering and natural calamities," commented Villegas, also National Chairman of the 3 million-strong Citizen's Crime Watch (CCW).

"The vicious cycle of the executive power being monopolized by traditional politicians should now be relegated to the dustbin of history so that the country could move on to lasting peace and economic progress, instead of being always stalled by recrimination among traditional leaders," Villegas stressed.

The grandson of national hero Gen. Miguel Malvar believes that an Ebdane Presidency can address the clamor for public officials to again adhere to the doctrine that "public office is a public trust," which can be "prostituted" by traditional politicians as evidenced by their involvement with shenanigans and petty scams.

"Secretary Ebdane held sensitive positions in the Government, but he never made himself hostage to the pernicious culture of graft and corruption that have blemished the honor and reputation of not a few cabinet members, making him a stand-out as alternative choice for President," Villegas said.

He added that LM followers and CCW members nationwide are in a state of readiness for mobilization behind Secretary Ebdane's candidacy for president.

Probe body mum on findings on SuperFerry 9 sinking

By Kristine L. Alave

THE BOARD OF MARINE INQUIRY INVESTIgating (BMI) the sinking of SuperFerry 9 wrapped up its probe yesterday, but is retained mum on its findings.

The BMI, headed by Rear Admiral Alexandro Flores said the board submitted its report to Coast Guard commandant Admiral Wilfredo Tamayo on Friday.

"We can't reveal our findings, we have too many recommendations, we have too many findings," Flores said.

He noted that it would be up to Tamayo to make public the board's report.

"The recommendations we may not adopt these recommendations. He could remove or add some parts of it. Until he makes these decisions, we cannot divulge the findings of the BMI," he said.

SuperFerry 9, owned by Abenlar Transport System Corp., capsized off the coast of Zamboanga del Norte on Sept. 6.

Nine people died in the sea tragedy. The rest of the passengers and crew were rescued by nearby vessels who responded to SuperFerry 9's distress call.

Testimonies from witnesses and crew members during the hearings held in Manila, Iloilo and General Santos cities, about the cause and the events prior to the sinking stated.

Some put forth the theory that the cargo door was improperly sheathed, rendering the ship off balance.

The ship captain, on the other hand, theorized that strong winds and waves sank the vessel, which was bound for Iloilo and Manila.

Flores, in a previous interview, said the side door at the cargo area might have been left open during the voyage, causing seawater to rush into the bottom of the ship. Flores said this could have caused stability problems in SuperFerry 9.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, October 17, 2009
28th Week in Ordinary Time
Ignatius of Antioch

1st Reading: Rom 4:13, 16-18
Gospel: Lk 12:8-12

Jesus said to his disciples, "I tell you, whoever acknowledges me before people, the Son of Man will also acknowledge before the angels of God; but the one who denies me before others will be denied before the angels of God.

"Then will be pardon for the one who calumnies the Son of Man, but there will be no pardon for the one who blasphemes the Holy Spirit.

"When you are brought before the synagogues, governors and rulers, don't worry about how you will defend yourself or what to say. For the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you have to say."

Commentary

We are, in the New Testament, many examples which show difficult about God. And yet, the phrase 'Son of Man' is found around 200 times in the gospels. All sinners in the gospels, who surely is this 'Son of Man'? The gospels make it crystal clear that the term can only refer to Jesus. The Son of Man has power to forgive sins, he is lord of the Sabbath, he is the messiah, the savior of the living God. As one who is killed and raised from the dead, he gave his life as a ransom for many; all of us, who believe in him and worship him, are to have eternal life.

In light of this, the Christian position on the person of Christ has simply support from the Bible. Far from being simply a human prophet of God, he is unique, far above all prophets. As in the gospels the term 'son of man' was not simply a way of describing any old human being, but was specific to Him, a special person, Jesus Christ. Those, who confess Christ now, shall be owned by Him on the great day, before the angels of God.

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PDI calamity relief drive continues as storm nears

THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER RELIEF drive continues to reach out to families affected by Tropical Storms "Ondoy" and "Pepeng" even as another weather disturbance threatens to enter the country.

Over 1,000 families in Real became the latest beneficiaries of relief operations yesterday with 700 families in Cardona, 300 families in Talim Island and 300 families in Binangonan receiving relief goods distributed by Inquirer volunteers.

Since it began on Sept. 29, the drive has distributed packs of rice, canned goods, biscuits, noodles, savory, coffee and sugar to more than 12,000 families in Pasig, Quezon City, Marikina, Tagaig and province of Laguna, Rizal, Bulacan and Pangasinan.

It has also received a total of P2.9 million in cash donations. Recent cash donors were the Construction Project Association of the Philippines, Oxford and Cambridge Club of the Phils. and Aquilino Pimentel III.

Donations in kind

Aside from cash, recent donations in kind included five plastic bags of assorted shirts, four boxes of towels and underwear from Chesed Manufacturing Corp. (Malaysian); 950,000 worth of blankets, sleeping mats and towels; 200 pieces each of necklines, towelist, milk, and biscuits; 1,200 pieces of toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, bath and hair soap) from ACE Insurance Philippines; 55 cases of coffee from Commonwealth Foods, Inc., 100 boxes of canned goods from Century Tuna Group; 1,000 packs of biscuits and 3,110 cups of noodles from Minecanmas Primex, Inc.

Other donations were four boxes of Sarsaraq, 61 packs of assorted snacks, 25 boxes of juice drinks and 22 packs of towels from Full Circle Communications; 41 boxes of assorted medicines and milk from Unilab; three boxes of medicines from NGR, Inc. (Dolfo Fabia Jr.); 500 blankets from ACCRA Law Office; 20 packs assorted relief goods from People Input GMPB, Inc.

There were three boxes of assorted relief goods from Aquid International Public Relations (Bob Germann and Associates); 2,833 pieces of assorted medicines from Beyond Advertising, Inc.; underwear from GIC Charities, Inc.; 336 cases of assorted canned goods from Lamoiyan Santo Cristo Phils., Inc.; 250 cases of mineral water from Special Events JFH Ltd.; several bags of used clothes from various donors, some from buy-and-resupply.

The relief drive has donated P100,000 to the Ronald McDonald House Charities, P500,000 worth of 200 gift certificates to Carino Manila and a cash amount to the Philippine National Red Cross.

Future relief missions

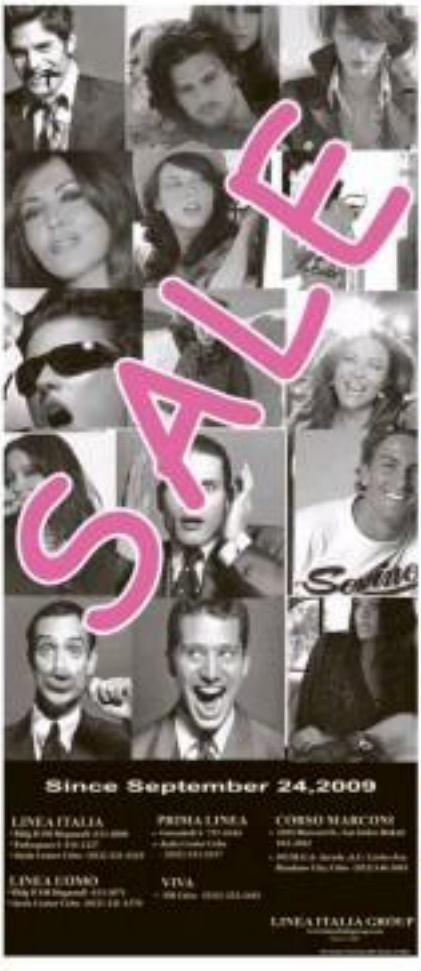
The Inquirer is still accepting donations for future relief missions to Cabanas and Sta. Maria, both in Pangasinan.

Donors may send relief goods to the Inquirer main office at 1000 Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague Street in Makati.

Goods may also be dropped off on weekdays at the following Inquirer branches: G/F Antam Building on Makati Avenue in Makati; 3/F Building B, 388 Megastrall on Edsa in Mandaluyong; G/F Trinity Building on Kalaw Avenue in Manila; and St. Anthony's Building on Aurora Boulevard in Cubao, Quezon City.

Also accepting donations are all McDonald's and Pilipinas branches in Metro Manila, as well as selected Cebuana Lhuillier outlets and the BPW relief center on Pioneer Street in Mandaluyong.

Cash donations may be deposited to PS Bank Account No. 115-110002660 for peso deposits and PSBank Account No. 115-1220001150 for dollar deposits under the account name "Inquirer Ondoy Relief Drive."



'Lupit' roars toward RP, impact to be felt Sunday

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Transcription of the article text:

ing in low-lying areas that they would again be evacuated by floods, saying Pagasa would recommend a slow release of water from dams to Luzon.

"Mixup dahay lang ang release (The release of water will be done gradually). It will not be significant enough to cause any flooding," he told the Inquirer.

Local officials have said the release of huge amounts of water from several dams worsened the floods in many areas in northern Luzon in the wake of Tropical storms "Ondoy" and "Pepeng," which left hundreds of people dead and devastated agricultural crops and infrastructure. (See story on Page A3.)

Quick exit

Pagasa express expressed hope that the new storm would make a quick exit out of the country.

Ani Paul of Pagasa's Hydrometeorological Division (PAGASA) said that if Basyang should make more than one pass over any area in the country—as Pepeng did—there could be heavy rainfall and possibly flash flooding in northern Luzon.

"If (it) is of the same strength and track as Pepeng and it becomes stationary, then definitely we would have to release water from dams," Paul said.

He said the water in the Angat and San Roque dams was still above normal levels.

Above normal levels

Angat is currently one meter above its normal level at 212 meters above sea level, while San Roque is 4.7 meters above its normal level of 280 meters above sea level.

Paul said that Angat Dam had three gates open, releasing 800 cubic meters per second, while San Roque had two gates open, releasing 600 cubic meters per second.

He said that Pampanga River can still accommodate 1,000 cubic meters of water per second and the Agno River 600 cubic meters without overflowing to cause heavy flooding.

Not much rainfall

Earlier, just before Pagasa announced that Ramil had weakened into Philippine area of responsibility, Paul said that the storm could hit northern Luzon or veer north toward Taiwan.

He also said that from current weather satellite data, Ramil did not seem to have much rainfall.

But this could change once the storm was still over water and could accumulate more moisture.

Pagasa said that until early Sunday, or before Ramil's impact is felt, Luzon would experience mostly cloudy weather with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms.

The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers and thunderstorms, it said.

Not taking any chances, the National Disaster Coordinating Council yesterday asked residents in flood- and landslide-prone areas in the Visayas, southern and northern Luzon to seek safer ground even if Ramil is still about 1,000 kilometers away.

The NDCC directed its warning to residents in the already storm-battered southern Luzon.

Local civil defense officials have also been advised to immediately determine possible evacuation centers in their areas, the NDCC spokesperson, Lt. Col. Kimmie Torres Jr., said.

"These are preemption measures. It may or may not happen. But the thing is, it's better to be safe than sorry," Torres said.

Resources spread too thin

Torres appealed to the public in land attractions from local officials as NDCC resources had already been spread too thin in the wake of the two storms' storms.

Ondoy, which dumped a month's worth of rain on Sept. 26 over Metro Manila, left a vast swath of the metropolis under water and the government desperately scrambling to provide relief to hundreds of thousands of people.

Pepeng battered northern and Central Luzon, sinking villages, triggering landslides and killing more than 200.

"Government capability has been spread too thinly in a span of two weeks, so we encourage individual effort to be prepared for this incoming calamity," Torres said.

Well prepared

In the Ilocos region, the Albay Public Safety and Emergency Management Office (Apemo) has been put on alert again.

"We are now on preparedness status and awaiting the arrival of additional rubber boats to board the province's existing 12 units spread across the province," Apemo planning and operations chief Abundio Nadres said.

Nadres said the people of Albay would mean business as they have learned from the past.

"Although the Pagasa tracking models point to Central and north Luzon (as possible target areas of Ramil), it is better that we are always prepared as the landfall is expected by Oct. 21," Albay Gov. Joey Salceda said.

"I ask everyone, especially under the leadership of our new bishop, Bishop Joel Baylon, and our spiritual leader Bishop Lucilo Quintusban, to pray the Oratio Imperata," Salceda appealed.

The "Oratio Imperata For Deliverance From Calamities" is a special prayer asking God for protection from the threat of calamities, natural and man-made.

Learning from experience

"Learning from experience, Albay has conquered a new motto: Let us pray, Let us prepare, Let us help, Let us learn, then Let us blame," Salceda said.

Leptospirosis kills 89

Transcription of the article text:

ravaged areas, Duque said 89 of 1,027 persons afflicted and confined in 15 hospitals had died.

"We are closely watching the incidence of leptospirosis. It is the most severe illness now being committed by an increasing number of people," he said in a news conference.

Duque pointed out that the number of leptospirosis cases monitored by the DOH since Oct. 1 in Metro Manila and Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon) had exceeded the 800 or so cases monitored for the whole of 2008 in the entire country.

Also, he said, the fatality rate in the current leptospirosis cases was already greater at 9.6 percent (89 deaths out of 1,027 cases) compared to the fatality rate of 7.5 percent last year.

Leptospirosis is a bacterial infection contracted by coming in contact with contaminated water through cuts in the skin. The infection is commonly transmitted in floodwaters ruined by the urine of rats and other animals.

It can cause kidney and liver damage. Its symptoms include fever, a red rash, weakness, headaches, muscle and joint pains, vomiting and fatigue.

Prevention and treatment

Duque said the DOH had set aside P50 million for the prevention and treatment of leptospirosis, especially in the areas inundated by rains brought by Ondoy.

He said 2,000 more cases were expected from the estimated 1.7 million people exposed in the disease. (According to health officials, one million residents are exposed to leptospirosis in Southern Tagalog including Rizal, and 700,000 in Metro Manila.)

The DOH projected that of the 3,400 expected cases, 680 would be severe, and 3,040, uncomplicated.

It also projected that of the 1.7 million people exposed to leptospirosis, only 1.3 million would be eligible to benefit from the DOH's doxidideng of the cost of prevention and treatment.

Duque said 12 government hospitals were ready to receive leptospirosis patients, and that private hospitals were expected to accept the "spillover."

"Now is the time for us to help each other out. We hope that doctors [in private hospitals] would waive their professional fees," he said.

Outbreak

There is now an outbreak of leptospirosis in Batangas Province, Leyte province and Marinduque City, according to Duque.

Epidemiologist Dr. Eric Tayag said the above barangays accounted for at least five cases, but Duque said an outbreak of leptospirosis could be declared in an area that had only one case if it had come the previous week.

Duque said prophylaxis doses... or 200-milligram pills of the antibiotic doxycycline—had been given to vulnerable residents of Marikina, and that P4 million had been set aside to provide those residents one week of protection from the disease.

"But that is not to say that other areas are not prophylaxis, it is already safe to make to floodwaters," he said.

Duque said the DOH would start providing prophylaxis treatment to other areas this weekend.

Information drive

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo said the growing incidence of leptospirosis was not unexpected because many victims of Ondoy had to move through floodwaters and come into contact with contaminated water and soil.

He said authorities could curb the spread of leptospirosis by finding ways to drain the remaining floodwaters and haul the garbage piling up on the streets.

Ocampo said health officials and personnel should launch an extensive campaign to inform the public of the dangers of the disease, its symptoms, and how it could be avoided. He said the campaign should be continued in a language easy to understand.

"We should go about this efficiently and act decisively before more people die," said the activist lawmaker. With a report from Leila B. Salaverria

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Protocol provides for 4-hour advance warning

THE PAGASA WEATHER BUREAU maintained that it was the strong rains brought by the returning Typhoon "Pepeng" that prompted National Power Corp. to release water from the San Roque Dam in Pangasinan.

In a statement, Susan Espiritu-Sevi, officer-in-charge of Pagasa's hydrometeorology division, said the dam was still able to hold the rains from Pepeng's initial landfall.

Pepeng made its way out of the country but brought more rains when it returned and became stationary over northern Luzon, she said.

"There is no protocol for the release of water from the dams, Espiritu-Sevi said.

Under this protocol, Pagasa provides Napocor all the weather-related information including rainfall forecast but not the expected volume of rain.

Based on the forecast, Napocor will assess the flow of water into the dams based on actual rainfall plus expected rainfall, and decides whether the gates or spillways should be opened.

If that decision is made, Napocor calls dam operators, such as San Roque Power Corp., and warns them to monitor as to which gates should be opened, by how much, and how much water should be released.

Flood control

According to Espiritu-Sevi, the San Roque Dam has a top 10 gate arrangement (for maximum water level) of 280 meters but the requirement of power generation is only at 280 meters.

The 280-280-meter level is strictly flood control level.

The dam's flood control purposes will be delivered if it automatically starts releasing water when it reaches 280 meters, Espiritu-Sevi said.

The level may be kept up to 280 meters if there is no rain expected and the downstream areas are already flooded, she said.

In the case of Pepeng, there was no decision to release water because the dam could still hold it. But when Pepeng returned and brought more rain, the dam operators decided that water should be released because capacity would be breached.

Warning

Espiritu-Sevi noted that the protocol required authorities to give four hours warning to local inhabitants before water release, and that it took eight hours for water to travel from the dam to inhabited areas.

Prior to the release of water, a meeting was held with local inhabitants through the Pangasinan governor, and they were given more than the required 4-hour advance warning, Espiritu-Sevi said.

The release was timed at midnight so that the water will reach inhabited areas in broad daylight, considering that the initial release was less than 200 cubic meters per second, she said.

—Amy E. Remo

New protocol set for release of dam water

Kimberly Ki

ila said Napocor officials should notify the dam's early warning system so that residents would be warned early on of any release of water from the dam.

"We should ensure that the early warning systems are enhanced and implemented in every way possible ... for sirens can [use], signal or megaphones until the warning reaches the people," Legarda said.

At the start of the hearing, Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes told the senators that he had directed Napocor generation Paulino Sampaico to submit by Monday a report on how the agency had handled the release of water from the San Roque Dam.

Reyes said he wanted Sampaico to find out whether Napocor had followed the protocol and if officials and engineers could be held criminally and administratively liable in ordering the release of water at the height of Typhoon "Pepeng."

Huge volume of rainfall

Sampaico, who finally showed up at the inquiry, said a protocol was followed in the release of water on midnight of Oct. 6, but pointed out that the huge volume of rainfall "had not been experienced in the country for a long, long while."

"The last incident of a similar nature was in 1928 and was not as grave. It clearly shows that the protocols we follow certainly need updating," Sampaico said.

According to the protocol, the San Roque Dam will open its gates when the water reaches the critical point of 280 to 290 meters above sea level (masl).

Dam operators will also make sure that the water to be released will amount to 300 cubic meters per second (cms).

As the hearing, Legarda found explanations from operators of other dams—the Angat and Ipo dams in Bulacan, Pantabangan Dam in Nueva Ecija, and even Magat Dam in Isabela—on the protocols they use in releasing water.

Local executives in areas beside Laguna Lake stood their concern on the projection that it would take four to five months before the floods triggered there by Tropical Storm "Ondoy" would be drained.

Environment Secretary Lito Atienza blamed the flooding on the fish pens set up in Laguna Lake.

Atienza said 50,000 hectares of the 90,000-hectare lake were occupied by fish pens.

Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) officials reiterated the need to immediately dredge the Napindan channel to help drain the floods and to ensure that illegal settlers would not return to the danger zones there.

Legarda is scheduled to visit Laguna Lake today with LLDA chair Felipedro Marcelo.

'Their level best'

Sampaico said the protocol called for the dam operators to coordinate with the Pagasa weather bureau to provide them data on rainfall and allow them to determine subsequent actions.

He said it was not only the dam owners that contributed to the flooding in Metro Manila but also the informal settlers along the river systems. He claimed that he and other officials could identify "which localities were flooded by the river streams."

Sampaico also said dam engineers did "their level best and based their actions on what they felt was provided for us guidance in the protocol."

That last remark of Sampaico drew a retortion from Legarda and Pangasinan Rep. Mark Cojuangco, who cited the earlier testimony of Napocor chief hydrologist Russell Rigor that there were no such protocol and that engineers merely based their actions on their own judgment.

Judgment call

Sampaico retorted that Rigor was not assigned to oversee the San Roque Dam and that it was Alexander Pelaida, Napocor chief of flooding forecasting and warning system for dam operations, who knew about the matter.

Legarda asked Pelaida whether it was possible to calibrate the water to be released rather than releasing it in one sweep.

In reply, Pelaida said the dam did not release water days before Pepeng made a U-turn and slammed Central and northern Luzon on Oct. 6 because the water level there was only at 277 masl, or far from the critical 280-290 masl.

"The dam was able to catch the first salvo of Pepeng," Pelaida said.

He said that when Pepeng returned and the critical water level was reached, the dam released water at 500 cms around midnight of Oct. 6 on the premise that people were not out in the streets but in their homes.

But in the course of being questioned by Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano, Pelaida admitted that engineers also used their judgment in determining when to release water.

Between rock and hard place

Dr. Carlos Arcilla, associate professor at the University of the Philippines and director of the National Institute of Geological Sciences, said the suggestion of his group was that the flow of information on the release of water from the San Roque Dam should be modified.

Said Arcilla: "Napocor and the dam officials do not have their own weather services. Pagasa cannot give rain estimates because there's no Doppler radar. So if you're a dam engineer, you're caught between a rock and a hard place. ... Under your protocol, you can only release 500 cms. But then the water is still rising. How will you release it? What will you base it on?

"There's a communication issue that has to be studied carefully."

Arcilla acknowledged that there was a need in change the protocol that limited the release of water to 500 cms.

He said a group that included academicians, dam experts, hydrologists and geologists would help advise on how the protocol could be revised.

"The 500 cms [limit] is clearly inadequate for the extreme weather event that happened," he said.

Continued blame

As in Wednesday's hearing, the blame game continued as Pangasinan executives again blamed the dam operators for the inundation of nearly 80 percent of the province.

Both Cojuangco and Pangasinan Gov. Amado Espino said the protocol at San Roque Dam was useless.

"The protocol is defective and irrelevant. What's the point if it's to warn the people? The protocol is to prevent [disasters]," Cojuangco said.

Espino angrily questioned the point of warning the people when authorities could not even say how much water would be released.

"Did you say that the water to be released would be raging? You only said that water would be released. Is that right?" Espino said.

And if the executive rules were to be blamed for the flooding, he wondered why other places in the province were not inundated.

Pagasa chief Prisco Nilo also disagreed with Napocor officials that the weather bureau would have to determine whether the dam gates should be opened.

He said Pagasa was only there to disseminate information on rainfall and weather events.

House inquiry

In a text message, Cojuangco said the House of Representatives would proceed with its own inquiry into the release of water from the San Roque Dam, with an eye to drawing up a new standard operating procedure that would recommend water releases in small volumes prior to the arrival of a typhoon.

"The House has decided to form its own committee so that it may conduct its inquiry and form its own specific recommendations. I will act as chair of the committee. The members will be from dam-affected districts," he said.

Cojuangco also said "the emerging consensus" in the House "is the need to revise all the regulations, procedures and protocols regarding dam operations and ensure that if they err, they err on the side of safety and caution." With reports from Cliff C. Cabucungan Jr.

Empty climate deal feared in Copenhagen

BRUSSELS—POOR NATIONS ARE NOT blocking global climate talks but are simply demanding that rich nations meet existing commitments of financial help, said Bernardino Muller, leading negotiator for the 77-poorest countries.

Muller, who is also a senior negotiator from the Philippines on climate change, said a rift that emerged in climate talks in Bangkok last week showed that rich nations would seek to dodge responsibility for global warming created by their industries and avoid existing commitments to provide climate funding.

About 180 nations will meet in Copenhagen in December to try to find a successor agreement to the Kyoto Protocol, the UN's main tool against climate change which expires in 2012.

A dispute over how much money rich nations pay to help the poor adapt to climate change threatens to undermine chances of a deal there, said Muller, who negotiates for the Group of 77 (G77) nations.

"What we fear most is that this will just turn into a short political declaration that says principally that nothing will be done unless developing countries do it themselves," Muller said. "But it will be done in beautiful language—we are making a commitment to address the defining challenge of our times ... blah, blah, blah."

Preliminary climate talks in Bangkok ended with accusations that rich nations such as the United States were trying to kill off the framework of the existing Kyoto Protocol.

"There must be a complete shift in mindset," Muller said on the sidelines of an Oxfam meeting. "They want us deny historical responsibilities. They want to get rid of their legally binding commitments. They want a new one in which developed countries will continue their wasteful lifestyles."

Europe says it wants to widen Kyoto, which does not bind the United States and rapidly emerging economies such as the world's biggest carbon emitter China, and so it would rather craft a new pact than extend and add an attachment to Kyoto.

Muller rejected accusations that poor nations were blocking the talks by refusing to compromise.

"What really gets me is they say developing countries are blocking the process. They're in no way developing countries could be blocking the process. We want a fulfillment of their commitment to provide the [financial] resources," she said.

The European Union is working on measures to provide up to 15 billion euros ($22.4 billion) a year to poor countries by 2020 as part of a global donation of around 100 billion euros ($149 billion), but no other rich regions have put offers on the table.

Developing nations must first prove the money will not be wasted by showing how they will use it to cut emissions in a transparent and verifiable way, they say.

But poor nations are under no such obligation to report emissions cuts, Muller said. The only obligation that exists in the UN convention on climate change is for rich countries to provide financial help. Reuters

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Pro-GMA governors endorse Gibo-Loren tandem in 2010

From page A1

wholeheartedly for a Gibo-Loren ticket," said Barangay Gov. Miguel Rene "Migz" Dominguez, when contacted by phone.

Teodoro was picked by the 68-member national executive committee of the merged Lakas-Kampi-CMD last month as its standard bearer.

During that meeting, party members also endorsed presidential caucus for Pimentel to be Teodoro's running mate. But other members later floated another possible running mate, Batangas Gov. Vilma Santos, who has refused the draft.

Legarda on the other hand was supposed to stick to say with party mate Sen. Francis "Chiz" Escudero for the Nacionalista Party's Coalition (NPC) ticket.

Titillated

Last week, Legarda hinted she was amenable to running for vice president and disclosed that five presidential hopefuls, including Teodoro, have asked her to be their running mate.

She appeared titillated by the governors' endorsement, but was non-committal.

Legarda recognized that the executive board of the league was composed of the "most influential governors" in the country.

But in the meantime, she just wants to continue her work in environmental advocacy "to prevent further loss of lives and to help in the rehabilitation of damaged provinces and towns."

"I am honored and inspired, but remain firmly with my opposition," said Legarda, who ran unsuccessfully with the late presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. in the 2004 election.

Rizal Rep. Jack Duavit, NPC secretary general, said yesterday it was still Chiz-Loren for the NPC.

"Barring any sudden reversal of events, we are locked in for Chiz and Loren. We feel they complement each other and their synergy at work is something to behold. There is no one-upmanship, no drip on the chemistry. That is rare to see these days. The tandem is inspiring," said Duavit.

Continued alliance

In pushing for a Gibo-Loren ticket, Dominguez said the governors also agreed to push for a continuation of the alliance between Lakas-Kampi-CMD, the Lakas ng Sosyalistang Pilipino and the NPC.

"The coalition has been existing since 2004. It will be a perfect fit if Loren came out and joined us—that's the NPC and probably the LDP—for a merger of the parties for the elections. We've done it in 2004, we believe we can succeed it in the 2010 elections," said Dominguez.

Aurora Gov. Bellaflor Angara-Castillo announced the LDP bonded for her brother Sen. Edgardo Angara in the meeting, while Antique Gov. Sally Perez was there on behalf of the NPC.

Environmental advocacy

Legarda has conducted three Senate hearings on the massive floods that submerged Metro Manila and five provinces in Luzon following the onslaught of Tropical Storms "Ondoy" and "Pepeng."

"I think we've been successful to a certain extent. No less than 10 Philippine atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration chief Prisco Nilo said that if not for these hearings, the outdated protocol for water releases from the dams would not have been updated," she said.

Plans released from the San Roque Dam in Pangasinan was blamed for the massive flooding that submerged the province and some parts of Central Luzon.

"But still, I don't want to focus on politics because I find fulfillment and I find myself very useful in the work I'm doing both for my environmental advocacy and humanitarian work. I hope people will appreciate more the politics of performance than political campaigning," Legarda said.

Asked what type of presidential candidates she was looking for, Legarda said the times needed "a scientific and decisive leader because this is clearly an environmental crisis, which has translated into an environmental and human tragedy crisis."

Short list

On Thursday, Legarda announced that the list of presidential aspirants who were wooing her to be their No. 2 in the May 2010 polls had been narrowed from five to three—Teodoro, Villar and Escudero.

Legarda had said she was actually "agonizing" over her political plans for 2010 following the sudden decision of Escudero, her party mate in the Nacionalista Peoples Coalition (NPC), to post-pone announcing his presidential run in deference to the victims of the massive floods and landslides.

"Barring any severe weather disturbance and other climatic matters, I will make my formal announcement within 10 days (on or before Oct. 26). I will give my formal decision not only on the position I will contest but also my progressive, patriotic and pro-environment platform," she had said.

Ilocos NPC secretary general, deposed speakership candidate and Legarda did not have the financial muscle to battle other political parties in the 2010 election.

'We have funds'

"We have more than enough funds for a nationwide campaign, funds for political ads, but when we do not have any funds to buy votes," said Duavit, amid talks that Legarda was considering to run as vice president in another party because NPC founder Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco was scrimping on funds.

He reckoned that talks to split up Escudero and Legarda, even before they could formally announce their team up, were coming from Malacañang.

"That shows how serious they are taking our party's chances in 2010," said Duavit, noting that both Escudero and Legarda have performed well in surveys although they have yet to formalize their candidacies.

A party source said the decision not of Escudero's presidential bid had been reached-ed by Gov. 26 at the Subay ng Alumni at his alma mater, University of the Philippines.

Legarda had said she will announce her candidacy by Oct. 24.

King's ransom

Albuera Rep. Rex Gacchalian, the party spokesperson, said, "We believe that Senators Chiz and Loren will stay together. Both have stated the party is paramount sentiment that they will stay with the party and will enter next year's elections together as a formidable team."

She should Legarda, who was rumored to have been offered by "king's ransom" to be vice presidential bet of another candidate, ditch Escudero, an NPC source said the move to tie youngest presidential candidate has a back-up plan of drafting "another contender of presidential caliber" in his running mate.

Hill, Pangasinan Rep. Mark Cojuangco said that questions on who would replace Loren in Escudero's partner was speculative and "this has no bearing at this time."

Drama of boy feared in balloon grips world

By Inquirer AFP

sending for two hours as it soared some 90 km east across Colorado, trailed by US National Guard helicopters.

Authorities considered dozens of measures to bring the craft down safely and, after discovering that the boy Falcon Heene was not inside, began scouring the countryside for any sign of him.

In the attic

Falcon was discovered in the attic above the garage of his family's home in Fort Collins roughly five hours after his brother told police he had climbed into the balloon and taken off.

A sheepish Falcon later appeared before a camera of journalists alongside his father Richard, mother Mayumi, and two brothers, Steil, 10, and Ryo, 8.

"I was in the attic, and it scared me because he [his father Richard] yelled at me. That's why I went to the attic," Falcon said, adding for later bill asleep.

"After I played with my toys, I took a nap. ... I got up because I was really bored."

Landing 2 hours later

Television networks followed the progress of the runaway flying balloon as it drifted into the atmosphere before making a soft landing two hours later.

Authorities began framing the event after the craft was found to be empty after it landed.

Witnesses report not seeing an accidental object fall from the balloon during its flight.

But fears of a tragic ending evaporated after Larimer County Sheriff Jim Alderden received a call from an officer during a briefing while reporters...Falcon had been found alive.

"He's been hiding in a cardboard box in the attic above the garage," a beaming Alderden told reporters.

"I don't want to make a conference, but this is not the first time when we have been involved in searching for some child and once the child realizes people are looking for them, they hide because they're afraid they're going to get in trouble," he added.

No publicity stunt

Alderden said police had questioned Falcon's brother several times about what he had seen shortly before the balloon drifted away.

"What he said was that he saw his brother climb into that apparatus and he was very adamant, they interviewed him multiple times and that was his consistent story," Alderden said.

Richard Heene, a former storm-chaser who spends his spare time studying storms, clouds and weather patterns, bristled at suggestions that the drama had been a publicity stunt.

"After the crap we just went through, no, no, no," he said.

Richard would not say whether he planned to give up his balloon experiments.

The Denver Post reported that the Heene family often went fishing storm-together.

"They get no much more than they can't get from any other entertainment," Mayumi told the paper. Richard said his children revelled in the thrill of stalking tornados.

"I think I have said here," Richard said.

Looking for extraterrestrials

Asked if he would be billed for the massive search-and-rescue operation amid mounting outrage over the incident, Richard said, "I sure hope not."

Richard said the family had been working on a low-altitude vehicle that people could take out of their garages and use to hover 30 to 100 feet above the traffic. But he said the invention was in its early stages.

He declined to detail how it broke free of its moorings.

"We had to just try and get that thing anchored, disabled or brought down," Larimer County Sheriff's spokesperson Jeff Nelson told MSNBC. "As it turned out, the balloon was inflating itself until we never had to do that.

ABC described the Heene family as elevating its time to "scientific experiments that include looking for extraterrestrials and building a research gathering flying saucer to send into the eye of the storm."

The confusion over whether the boy was in the balloon arose as the family dithered with the craft until Falcon's father realized late for getting inside a container.

Richard said Falcon's brother saw him inside the compartment and that's why they mistakenly thought he was aboard the balloon when it launched.

But the boy had fled to the garage, climbing a pole into the rafters and hiding in the cardboard box as some point after the scrubbing.

During a live interview with CNN, Falcon said he had heard his family calling his name.

"Why didn't you come out?" Richard said.

Falcon answered, "You had said that we did this for a show."

Richard said he didn't know what his son meant. He didn't ask his son what he meant by "a show."

Cause of search

The sheriff was already planning to meet with investigators Friday to see if the case warranted further investigation.

Alderden told the AP, "Our personnel who were dealing with the family all day are convinced this is a legitimate incident and this is not a hoax."

Neighbor Bob Lirkis, 61, said he was leaving home when he heard commotion in the backyard of the family. He said he saw two boys on the roof with cameras.

"One of the boys yelled to me that his brother was way up in the air," Lirkis said.

Lirkis said the boy's mother seemed distraught and that the boy's father was running around the house. Lirkis said he didn't believe any hoax was involved.

While the balloon was airborne, Colorado Army National Guard sent an OH-58 Kiowa helicopter and a Black Hawk UH-60 to try to rescue the boy, possibly by lowering someone to the balloon.

They also were tracking with pilots of ultralight aircraft on the possibility of putting weights on the homemade craft to weigh it down.

Alderden said he didn't have an estimate of how much the search cost.

Capt. Troy Brown said the Black Hawk helicopter was in the air for nearly three hours, and the Kiowa helicopter was airborne for about one hour. The Black Hawk costs about $9,600 an hour to fly, and the Kiowa is $700 an hour. Reports from AFP, Reuters and AP

FOUND Falcon Heene, 6, is shown with his father, Richard, outside the family's home in Fort Collins, Colorado, after the boy was found hiding in a box in a space above the garage on Thursday.

FALSE ALARM In this image rendered from video and released by KMGH-TV in Denver, a tear-shaped balloon, mistakenly believed to be carrying a boy feared to have fallen to his death, is seen over Colorado, near Fort Collins. A police official said the device, which is shaped like a flying saucer, has the potential to rise to 18,000 feet.

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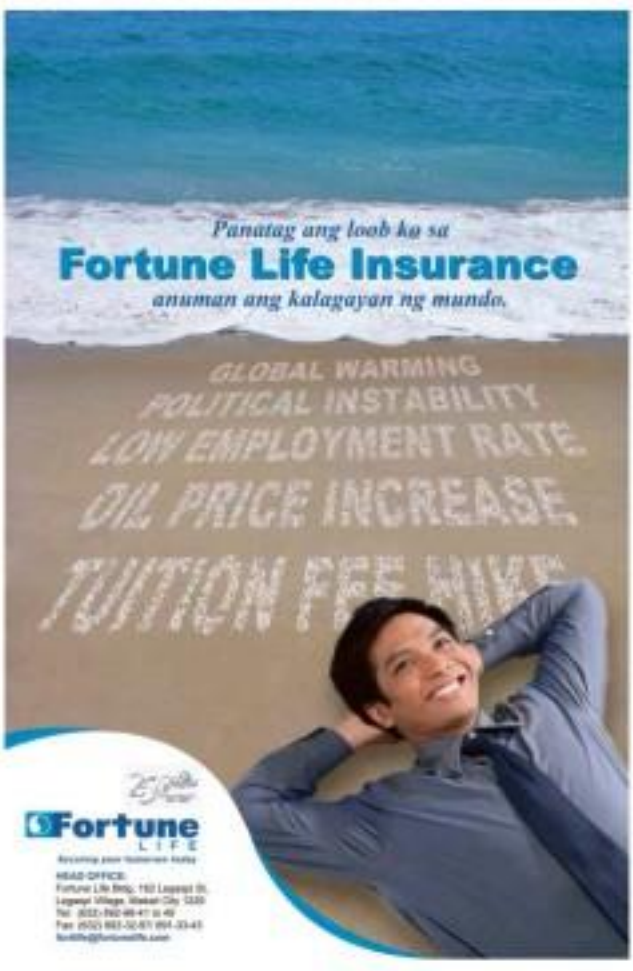

INQUIRER
OPINION

Sneaky move

EDITORIAL

WAS IT JUST WORK OR WAS THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES trying to pull a fast one? After two weeks of debates, the House ended a marathon session that started at 9:30 a.m. Thursday by approving on second reading the P1.54-trillion national government budget for 2010 at 2:40 a.m. Friday. As in previous budget deliberations of the 14th Congress, the vote came on the eve of a long congressional recess, ensuring the budget's approval on third and final reading when the session resumes in November. And as in previous budget deliberations, the remarkable thing was how House members could examine and discuss the subject for two weeks without finding anything worth changing in it.

One good thing about the House's early action on the budget is that it diminishes the chances of government agencies operating on a reenacted budget, which would have allowed President Macapagal-Arroyo to use it like a colossal pork barrel during the election year. But if there was any time the House needed to proceed at a deliberate pace in approving the budget this way it is.

The appropriations bill was crafted amid the global economic crisis when easing the lot of the disadvantaged demanded the highest priority not only for humanitarian reasons but for political reasons as well. Thus, the biggest increases were proposed for the Department of Social Welfare and Development, which administers the government's cash transfer program and other poverty alleviation measures, and the Department of Agrarian Reform, which is implementing a bridge-building program known as Tulay ng Pangulo.

Even then some congressmen were already wondering if the administration had dropped the economic stimulus package that was supposed to rev up an economy that has been slowing down. The chair of the appropriations committee, Quirino Rep. Junie Cua, asked why the capital outlay had been slashed to P180 billion from P233 billion, when many roads and other infrastructure were needed to spur rural development and attract investments. Albayan Rep. Walden Bello, who voted against the appropriations bill, questioned the wisdom of cutting government spending at a time when the economy needed a boost. He also asked why the administration reduced the budget for rice production to P3 billion from P10 billion if it was aiming to bring about self-sufficiency in rice.

But the biggest question of all is: What is there in the budget for the areas devastated by Typhoons "Ondoy" and "Pepeng" and the victims of the floods and landslides? How do our legislators intend to provide relief and bring normalcy to the lives of millions affected by the calamities? What will they do with the dikes, roads and bridges that have been washed away, the crops that have been ruined and the houses and school buildings that have been destroyed?

Sure Congress passed a joint resolution authorizing the use of up to P12 billion in unprogrammed funds for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of areas damaged by the typhoons. But how far will P12 billion go? The damage to crops and irrigation systems already amount to P18.4 billion, according to the latest estimate of the Department of Agriculture. What about the damage to roads, bridges, school buildings, hospitals and other infrastructure? What about the tens of thousands who lost their homes and their means of livelihood? What about those who need to be relocated from hazardous areas and those who need help to rebuild their homes? Where will the funds for dredging rivers and waterways, for improving drainage systems and the hundred other things that need to be built or rebuilt come from? Are our congressmen counting on foreign donors to cough up the funds for reconstruction?

Given all these urgent needs that require government funding, the approval of the budget crafted before the twin calamities seemed like a sneaky maneuver. The last thing congressmen will do is part with their pork barrel, particularly in an election year and suggestions were already being made to put in a reconstruction fund. They made sure they kept it, which is most likely now with ready to the Senate, another pork-addicted body, left to deliberate on the budget. Unless by some miracle, Presidents Arroyo finds the same kind of political will she has vowed to exercise in clearing the waterways of informal settlers and decides to axe it.

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A nation without government

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

IN OUR DAILY LIVES, WE EXPECT GOVERNment to be the source of capabilities that are beyond the reach of individuals. The savage rainstorm power over our lives, causing injudicially in its ability to use this power for the common good. This true, so easily given, is however also easily distilled. It took only two weeks of basin-level disasters to destroy whatever was left of the Filipino people's faith in their government.

On that fateful weekend of Sept. 26-27, residents in flooded communities waited in vain to be rescued from the flood waters that had trapped them in their homes. They realized their woe in one day could turn to be their misfortune of gross flatness, an erasure of authority to keep order in the flooded streets, and an institutional presence in harness and coordinate the survival reflexes of a besieged community. What they saw was a nation without a functioning government.

As disaster-public officials dwelled pathetically in their platens, making feeble references to "climate change" and the extraordinary amount of rain that had fallen, ordinary Filipinos stepped up to the challenge and did what needed to be done. They rescued their fellow humans in their less fortunate neighborhoods. They improvised their own watercraft and launched their own rescue missions, went on the air and on the Internet to pass on valuable information and, within a few hours, collected millions of pesos in cash and relief goods that began to distribute to affected communities.

In the absence of government, they substituted the spirit of community. They relied on their own resources and strength. And, they liked what they saw—that people worked more harmoniously when they discovered they could not rely on their government. They felt the need to overtake their local administration—many of which had withered in the vine of the state system—and learned to tap the wondrous potential of the new virtual communities that were emerging on the Web.

By the time our elected leaders got their act together and tried to show they were on top of the situation, their performance came across like a disgraceful afterthought, a faint echo of what the people were already doing for themselves. At one point, Malacañang went out with messages inviting volunteers to come to the Palace to help in the unpacking of donated relief goods. But the area already being done in the countless centers that had spontaneously sprouted from the moment the scale of the disaster became apparent. And this gesture came as the first hour of the crisis, it might have served as an emblem of solidarity between the state and civil society.

One could argue that the political leadership is still desperately trying to promote this story line of public-private solidarity by coming up with a so-called "Special National Public-Private Sector Commission." The Commission is to be headed by prominent business leader Manuel V. Pangilinan, and co-chaired by a cardinal of the Catholic Church and the secretary of finance. Its task is to raise about $1 billion in rehabilitation funds. Issues like foreign debt moratorium, and to oversee the projects to be funded from international donations.

Coming from the Arroyo government, this will not be received as an awe-inspiring initiative—unlike Cory Aquino's "Coordinating Council for the Philippine Assistance Plan," after which it is supposed to be modeled. Cory's Council was an invitation to participate in a project of hope; it rose in strength from Cory's instinctual credibility. Gloria's Commission is an admission of the ongoing government's depleted esteem in the eyes of foreigners and Filipinos alike, a confession of its inability to draw on its own, any sympathy for the victims of the current disasters.

The disasters that have fallen on our people invite a re-thinking of the role and relevance of government in these times. The withdrawal of government from many essential social functions is nothing new. It has been going on for sometime, achieving its peak in the time of Mr. Arroyo. Government has withdrawn from education, health, housing, transport, public utilities, and even security. This withdrawal is so extensive that citizens now ask why they should continue paying taxes.

Just to put this in perspective, it has to be mentioned that the dwindling of government's role is a phenomenon that is observable in all modern societies. The difference is that in these societies, a whole range of specialized agencies have evolved to take on these functions that used to belong to government. In our case, donor states' functions have been relinquished by private service providers operating solely by market rules. The outcome of this shift has been the systematic exclusion of the poor from the vital circuits of national life. They sometimes more than 40 percent of the city's residents. They are the homeless who pitch their shanties on river banks, under bridges, on the steep ridges of low-lying hills, and down drainage canals. They are the unemployed who drop out of school after only a few years.

Those who think that a strong centralized government is the key to disaster preparedness need to take a look at what is happening elsewhere. All over the world, it is strong and cohesive local communities that have shown a greater ability to prepare for disasters, respond to emergencies, and protect the communities on which their way of life depends. More than the interventionist state, it is these that we need in mis-lacs before it is too late.

• • •

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

The race to vaccinate Asia against pandemic flu

COMMENTARY

Dr. Shin Young-soo

Clearly, some difficult choices will have to be made in deciding which countries receive donated vaccine

AS A NUMBER OF GOVERNMENTS BEGIN mass vaccination programs against pandemic influenza, attention is focusing increasingly on the challenges that lie ahead for Asia—how to ensure that poor countries in the region get enough vaccine to avoid explosive outbreaks of infection in the weeks ahead.

The World Health Organization's Western Pacific Region contains many countries with weak health systems and huge populations of young people, pregnant women, the malnourished and the unwell—the groups most vulnerable to severe illness from the virus. In addition, many of these underprivileged communities live in crowded, unsanitary conditions, which can be fertile breeding grounds for influenza. WHO fears that if the virus takes a grip in this kind of environment, it may be unstoppable.

With the supplies of vaccine limited, the challenge over the next few weeks is to find ways for wealthy nations to deny more of their production with poorer ones. Also helping preserve unnecessary deaths and the crippling social and economic effects of mass absenteeism from work due to illness.

WHO is working with its United Nations partners, donors, development banks and pharmaceutical companies to secure the developing countries' access to vaccines and also to antivirals such as Tamiflu. It is also taking steps to facilitate cheaper purchase prices for the vaccine.

These efforts are progressing well, but more vaccine is needed. While countries have pledged some of their vaccine supplies to the developing world, while pharmaceutical companies, Israeli Asseria and Glaxosmithkline have agreed to donate 250 million doses of vaccine to WHO for distribution.

In total, around 2 billion doses have been pledged for donation, short of WHO's initial goal of obtaining 300 million doses for distribution in more than 90 countries. WHO hopes to meet the shortfall with donations from other countries and manufacturers.

WHO recommends that health care workers should get priority access to the vaccine because to ensure essential health infrastructure keeps functioning even if under stress. WHO has identified other target groups for vaccination, namely: pregnant women; people aged above 6 months with one of several chronic medical conditions; healthy young children of 11 to 59 years of age; healthy children; healthy adults of 18 to 64 years of age, and healthy adults of 65 years of age and older. Decisions on which of these groups are prioritized for vaccination, however, are the responsibility of national governments based on local needs and conditions.

Efforts to vaccinate as many people as possible have been boosted by the recent news that one dose of vaccine, rather than two, should be enough to offer immunity. This should effectively double the number of people who can be immunized.

Still, current global production capacity for pandemic vaccines is estimated at around 3 billion doses a year, compared to a world population of 6.8 billion people faced with a highly contagious disease. WHO has estimated that up to 30 percent of people could be infected over time.

Clearly, some difficult choices will have to be made in deciding which countries receive donated vaccine. These judgments will be informed partly by a country's readiness to accept and start distributing the vaccine, as the aim is to avoid vaccine languishing in warehouses.

Other considerations will involve assessments of whether the pandemic is becoming more or less severe, which countries are reporting sudden increases in infections, and how the disease is affecting various high-risk groups.

Clinical trials and tests conducted by major manufacturing companies on the vaccine show that it will offer significant protection from the pandemic (H1N1) 2009 virus. Trials have shown that the new vaccine meets safety benchmarks set by previous influenza vaccines, which have an established record of safety going back 60 years.

The vast majority of people infected with the Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 virus experience mild symptoms and recover without medical consideration, often without the need for medication. Many people, however, have become seriously ill and more than 4,000 have died.

The vaccine contains killed influenza virus, which is injected into muscles and stimulates the immune system to produce antibodies which recognize and fight disease-causing pathogens. When the virus enters a vaccinated person, the antibodies attack and kill the virus and prevent infection. Vaccines are generally given before exposure to prevent future infection.

Dr. Shin Young-soo is the World Health Organization's regional director for Western Pacific.

Climate change in the 2010 election race

THE TREMENDOUS NATIONAL GRIEF AT THE passage of former President and democracy icon Corazon Aquino was obviously responsible for the instant surge of her son Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III into the lead in the 2010 presidential derby.

The Pulse Asia poll, conducted Sept. 26-30 and first reported in the Sept. 3-6 SWS poll of the so-called "Langrenn Lacroix corridor" commissioned by Sergio Osmeña III, released by text, and confirmed on the SWS website on Sept. 14. That corridor, according to Dean Lacroix, stretches from Ilocos Norte in the north into Central Luzon and up to Pangasinan, and to the south into Southern Tagalog provinces as Laguna is included, is where presidents are born have made, according to him, with the notable exception of Ramon Magsaysay.

In the Langrenn-Lacroix corridor, former Senator Osmeña's poll found Noynoy Aquino getting 58 percents of the intended vote, if placed specifically against Manny Villar (14 percent), Joseph Estrada (12 percent), and Nick de Castro (7 percent). The sample size of 1,200 implies a 3 percent error margin for the specific area covered.

SWS' most troubling caveats (to its own accolades (i.e., its professional opponents)), and for public disclosure regardless of findings, since September 2007 SWS has conducted regular quarterly national surveys to ask respondents to name who (plural, as in one-two-three) he/she would vote for as president if the elections were held today. Out of her seven in May 2008. Respondents are told they may give up to three names; this evidences the scope for identifying potentially viable candidates.

The wording of this question has been the same every time it has been asked. There is no room in its ambit as a voting device. It has never presented a list of candidates to prompt responses. It is asked ahead of all questions which offer by potential lists of candidates that might conceivably exist in the respondents' minds and discriminate against any candidate not listed.

By not using any list of candidates, the question is all-inclusive. It permits naming those like

SOCIAL CLIMATE

Mahar Mangahas

Chief Justice Reynato Puno and Sen. Pantilo Lacson who have closely monitored my interest in the presidency indeed, even though it seems that Mr Noynoy is ineligible to run for president again, a few independents and citizens but no one of the best announcements in terms of ideas. I want to recognize also that the question never excluded Noynoy Aquino as a potential president, this is unless he said that SWS "decided to include Noynoy's name for the first time."

Sen. Osmeña, Leo Yabes-Sandoval, through an email to journalist Sassa Gabriel, SWS released the final report in Sept. 10-21, 2009 national survey that 60 percents ranked Noynoy Aquino as a best successor, suddenly making him the most popular candidate. After having left the people's radar in September 2007. Noynoy's standing took off from virtually zero to 60 something between June 19-22 and Sept. 19-22. This enormous movement, astounding as a climate change in the election race, was probably only triggered by the death of the beloved Cory Aquino on Aug. 1.

The second most popular was Manny Villar, who was tied by 27 percents. Then came Joseph Estrada (18 percent), Francis Escudero (13), Mar Roxas (10), Gloria Arroyo (8), Jejomar Binay (6), Gilberto Teodoro (4), Panfilo Lacson (2), Senator Bong (2), Raynal Bernardo (1), Eddie Gil Jamora (1) and Mr Antonio (0.1). The September 2009 sample size of 1,800 implies a 2.3 percent error margin for single-digit figures.

By far that the above numbers, plus a host of my finishing, add up to about 175 percentage points implies that the average number of names given in the new survey was about 1.7 per respondent. If everyone gave three names each, then the percentages would total 300. But, in fact, most people give only one or two names, with just one-stragger being 1.4 or 1.5.

Now, what SWS managed between the last two SWS national surveys? Aside from Noynoy, who (a) (up 4 points) and Teodoro (up 2 points) had higher scores than in June 2009, or a numbered increase of 7 points. Seven others had lower scores than before, including Joe Estrada (down 11 points), Villar (down 9), Escudero (down 6), Arroyo (down 7), Binay (down 6), or a combined drop of 48 points.

The net drop of 41 (from 48 minus 7) points among those who mentioned names that were not Noynoy's was SWS' most disconcerting finding. Was

Mistake repeated despite tragedy

MANILA EXPRESSWAY IS CLOGGED with stubborn arrogance, the result is tragedy. Point the second experience of the victims of "Ondoy" and "Pepeng," those natural disasters may have been abnormal as all disasters are, but the refusing of water from the dams was inconsistent, resulting from technological miscalculations and officials' pride.

Even superior man is ironic and vacillated. There had been times an instance when water from the dams was released streaming, nastily, despite the horrible deluge which devastated the Caladanan towns, the same criminal operation was repeated in Central Luzon.

Could there be a more arrogant assertion of so-called "scientific" expertise than this? What about the most fundamental issue of containing rains in favor of human life?

The ulterior motif lack of transparency in making life-threatening decisions was evident in the handling of dam disasters. Almost all local governments were enlightened that they were not sufficiently noticed. The wider lip and volume of the impinging waters were beyond the capacity of even a superman to escape from. Had the LCUs been given the opportunity to participate in the decision to release and calibrate the outflow of water from the dams, the damage and loss of lives would have been minimized.

An interactive inquiry should be seriously considered as soon as the floods subside, and while the experience and human horrified are fresh, lest the "images regret" mentality slide us back into the "bahala ka" syndrome.

—PAUL M. BONIFACIO,
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All letters of letters or else editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

What now for GMA?

THERE IS ONLY ONE REASON why should be blamed for the flooding and it is no other than Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo who could have spent the billions of pesos she splurged on her foreign travels in fixing the drainage system and setting up flood control systems in Metro Manila.

Also, what happened to the millions (or is it billions?) of pesos of interest, through the Department of Public Works and Highways, for such constructs? The Philippines is at the typhoon belt and the Aurora region has already recognized the problems that caused flooding in Metro Manila. There is no excuse for the calamity.

Gloria Arroyo and her public works secretary must do the honorable thing. Resign!

—JOAQUIN JOSE,
Inquirer007@yahoo.com

What matters most in relief work

IT IS NOT IMPORTANT THAT non-victims of the typhoons are "lining up to receive relief goods. The non-victim's poor, relentless flood victims or not, deserve to receive relief goods.

A la Marcos: no typhoon victim/or the relief goods contain pictures or names of politicians. What matters is their preparedness and motive to help and for victims' suffering/being alleviated by such help. Thank God.

—ARTHUR L. ABANDOC,
228 Sampaloc St.,
Cashiers Village, Las Piñas City

House members show true colors

THE DEPT. IS MISLEADING YOU (Is he a side to hear much pole?) is a clear indication of what would happen if those people who have been trying to subvert Congress to act as a constitutional assembly (Cancel have their way. It has been exhibited repeatedly that most members of the House of Representatives who ran in the last elections to represent their constituents now represent themselves and their own personal interests instead.

If, after the Cha-cha had been changed as popular for a public, runaway issue of power-sharing, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo must be Congress in any of the future elections and wins, her allies will surely once but as prime minister and the initial administration we have been trying to subvert Congress to act as a constitutional assembly (Cancel have their way. It has been exhibited repeatedly that most members of the House of Representatives who ran in the last elections to represent their constituents now represent themselves and their own personal interests instead.

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It is thus imperative that members of future constitutional assemblies are so in that those who have held the highest office of the land should no longer be qualified to be head of powerhouses, unless prior term limits on future heads of governments.

—RAMON BAUTISTA,
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IRR for TSPA with Spain in effect since April '09

THIS REFERS TO THE EDITORIAL TITLED "Swapped" (Inquirer, 9/28/09) which primarily commented on the Philippine government's Transfer of Sentenced Persons Agreement (TSPA) with various countries, including Spain.

Anyone's appreciation of the necessity and sensibility of entering into treaties with foreign countries is commendable.

"[T]his legal and diplomatic measure is undoubtedly advantageous for the Philippines, considering the millions of Filipinos who live or work abroad."

"[I]t would make sense, then, for the Philippine government to conclude similar prisoner exchange agreements with countries where [its] [sic] large number of Filipinos, a huge salary sum, for Filipino workers abroad."

Allow me, however, to correct an apparent misimpression as to "why the treaty was made effective only on Jan. 1, 2010, more than [8] months after it was signed" as well as the issue on the satisfaction of conditionalities.

Department Circular No. 11, dated March 30, 2005, signed by then Secretary Raul M. Gonzalez and published in the Philippine Star (Page 37/11) on April 25, 2005, states due to required implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the RP-Spain TSPA, Francisco Juan Larrañaga's request for transfer, routed through the Department of Foreign Affairs, was received by the Department of Justice on June 9, 2004, or almost two months after the effectivity of the RR.

On the issue on the satisfaction of conditionalities, Larrañaga was able to expeditiously and substantially prove compliance with the treaty requirements or the RR, submitted or attached to his formal request for transfer were certified photocopies of Official Receipts Nos. 1337868, 1494796 and 2809446, all dated May 26, 2009, and the original duly of the certification signed by Jeoffrey L. Josaphat, clerk of court, Branch 7, Regional Trial Court, Cebu, which reads:

"This is to certify that according to the records on file with this Office, available and issued as of this date, the amount of FIFTY THOUSAND FIFTY THOUSAND (Php"50,000.00) PESOS was deposited with his Office, under Official Receipt No. 1337868 dated May 26, 2009, as payment for the civil liability of the accused in Criminal Case Nos. CBU-92002 and CBU-96284, entitled 'People of the Philippines vs. Francisco Juan Larrañaga, et al.'"

Larrañaga's counsel, acting on media reports, filed with the SOJ, Branch 7, Cebu, on Sept. 30, 2009, a "Manifestation" regarding the non-payment of his civil liabilities in copy of order the SOJ was furnished] stating that Larrañaga's civil liabilities had been fully satisfied pursuant to Rule 39, Sec. 9(a) of the Rules of Court.

—AGNES SIT MUNARRIZ,
acting director,
Department of Justice, Manila

Mind rising water levels when suspending classes

THE CURRENT POLICIES ON CLASS SUSpension based on storm signals are grossly inadequate. Rainfall measurements and the speed of the rise of the water levels in dams and rivers should be included in the criteria upon/or guidelines on the suspension of classes.

The dam are rainfall, rivers and floods can be tracked by scientific monitoring and reporting from concerned agencies like Pagasa and thus can appraise the dams and flood control systems.

The class suspension policies should also have provisions pertaining to classes that are scheduled on Saturdays and Sundays. Colleges and universities have classes on weekends for their undergraduate or post-graduate students. High schools and grade schools also often hold make-up classes and co-curricular activities on Saturdays. National Service Training Program (NSTP) sessions are usually held on Saturdays and sometimes Sundays.

The Professional Regulation Commission and its instrumentalities should also have rules on the suspension and postponement of licensure examinations, which are most often held on weekends.

Finally, perhaps all agencies in the administrative order can have a new and jobs are of guidelines or class suspension.

—GIRL VICTOR L. ROMERO,
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Across the NATION

Assistant Editor Tony Burgonia

Underworld lottery gangs lure mayors with poll campaign funds

LUCENA CITY—GOLDEN MUnicipal mayors were being lured to allow the operations of illegal lottery bookies in exchange for huge election campaign funds, an official of the Quezon Mayors League revealed Thursday.

Lopez town Mayor Sonny Dhana, vice president of the Quezon Mayors League, said he has been receiving reports from several league members that representatives of big-time gambling financiers have been making the rounds of the province to entice local government executives to allow the operations of illegal small town lottery bookies.

"The campaign funds are ready for the taking once the mayor says 'yes.' But the tempting offer has been flatly rejected by my colleagues," said Dhana in a phone interview on Thursday.

"The PCSO [Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office], during these times of calamities, needs funds very badly and illegal bookies cannot help. We don't want to be a part of any illegal activities," Dhana said.

Citizen's arrest

He called on the Philippine National Police to raid illegal gambling sites in the province.

"If any of them [illegal gambling operators] come to me and makes the offer, I will personally handcuff the accused and hand him in jail," Dhana said.

He said the illegal gambling operators were based in Batangas and Bicol.

Lucena Bishop Emilio Marquez has been vocal in saying that proceeds from the illegal numbers game would be used to buy votes in the coming elections.

Huge "payola" from illegal activities has always been the funding source of politicians during elections.

Amy Gonzales, operations manager of Pitmaster Corp., the ETL franchise holder in Quezon province, said the government lottery was now being attacked on two fronts—by highway robbers and illegal bookies.

Last Monday, Prosecutor Ian P340,000 to highway thieves in Lucena City.

Robbery in two forms

"We're being robbed and our sales index is going down because of the continued and rampant operation of bookies. If these criminal activities do not stop, the government's share in the form of taxes that we're regularly paying will also be affected," he said by phone.

Quoting reports from branches, Gonzales said bookies were rampant in the coastal part of the province (2nd District) and in some towns in Lamon Bay (4th District) and Bondoc Peninsula (3rd District).

"Most illegal bookies have the blessings of the local police and even the go-signal of local officials," Gonzales said. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Flood irony in village without irrigation

By Yolanda Batoto
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BATAMBANG, PANGASINAN—A farm village here never benefited from the irrigation water of San Roque Dam but it was severely flooded when the dam released excess water last week.

Tons of surging water from the dam inundated the village's farms, destroying palay ready for harvest and other crops.

The floods also destroyed portion of a dike along the Agno River and wiped out at least 30 houses.

"Gone is the palay I was supposed to harvest in three days. Our crop was good this year, it would have been a bumper harvest," said farmer Diego Perez, 60, as he stood on the edge of the collapsed dike.

Barrosos village is along the Agno River tide which stores water from San Roque Dam in San Manuel town is affected.

No irrigation

But the village is not reached by irrigation facilities serviced by the dam, village head Hercules Dennis said.

Some farmers use pumps to draw water from the Agno River. Others built shallow wells from which they draw water for their irrigable planting.

"I think controlling or wiring in the system of releasing [dam] water. I hope that they can do something about it so that our village and town will not be submerged again," Dennis said.

He attended the government unit in immediately expand five 150-meter dike which she says is an access road to other villages.

When raging water started to breach part of the dike on Oct. 9, tons in the village frantically tried to fortify that portion.

They used tanks with sand and other materials in a futile effort.

"We put any available materials we could find," said Jocelyn Dizon, 27, a school teacher.

Sudden rush

At 2 a.m. that day San Roque Dam opened its six gates, releasing more than 3,000 cubic meters per second of water into the rivers of Pangasinan.

For three hours, villagers feverishly worked to secure the dike, but about 100 meters away, another portion was cracking.

"The river was roaring," Perez said.

An hour later, the villagers watched as the dike disappeared.

At noon on Friday, the dike was totally breached and 30 houses on both its sides were gone.

The villagers had left their homes the night before, with women and children now in evacuation centers in the town. A perplexed 46-year-old woman man not associated on time and was found dead here that day.

"This was the first time that this dike collapsed," said Perez, who was born in the village.

It was also the first time that floodwaters rose so high that it overtopped some sections of the dike.

HARDY
Two women in Tobilay, Bongabon, harvest rice crops while vendors haul out vegetables for sale on markets in La Trinidad, Benguet, a daily task that no disaster or calamity could stop the hardy villagers from performing.

Gloria opens P2B in roads, water system in Negros trip

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BAGO CITY—PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo inaugurated close to P2 billion in infrastructure projects in Negros Occidental, including a P1.8-billion rehabilitated irrigation system in Bago City on Friday.

There, the President inaugurated the Bago River Irrigation System covering 13,277 hectares and serving about 10,000 farmers in the cities of Bacolod, Bago and La Carlota and the towns of Murcia, Pulupandan, San Enrique and Valladolid.

The President threw seeds in to a rice field in the communities as she said the government seeks to boost farmer income and help them become entrepreneurs.

During a forum attended by 1,000 rice farmers in Barangay Bagroy, Bago City, Ms Arroyo said the government would make available to farmers P120 billion in loans.

The National Food Authority (NFA) would also increase the amount of rice it would buy from farmers to a million sacks from 450,000.

Carlos Salazar, National Irrigation Administration (NIA) administrator, said the irrigation system would help boost organic farming and increase rice production.

The President also inaugurated the P54.1-million Bagroy Bridge along the Hinigaran-Isabela Road and the P52.8-million Bagroy Bridge along the Binalbagan-Isabela Road, both in the 5th district of Negros Occidental represented by Iee Brother-in-law Rep. Ignacio Arroyo Jr.

In Bacolod City, she inaugurated the 980.5-million Tangub-Singcang Section of the Bacolod City-South Road Project.

Political party, Davao Sur gov back DPWH chief

By Frencie Lim
Inquirer Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—ANOTHER GOVernor and one of the country's oldest political parties confirmed on stir tension in a campaign to Gen. Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. to run for president next year.

Ebdane himself said he was here on running despite the attention of Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro as administration candidate by leaders of the Lakas-Kampi.

Gov. Rodolfo del Rosario of Davao del Sur said he was joining other Mindanao leaders in endorsing Ebdane.

In a statement, the Laginig Manggagawa (LM) also announced it was fully supporting Ebdane's bid.

Del Rosario said Ebdane's background as public works chief was what the country needed in rebuilding efforts following two storms that left a wide swath of destruction across Luzon.

Lawyer Jose Melvar Villegas Jr., LM president, said although Ebdane's chances had been downplayed by some sectors, he could be a "dark horse."

"The vicious cycle of corruption greater being monopolized by traditional politicians should now be relegated to the dustbin of history," the LM statement said.

Del Rosario first announced his "personal preference" for Ebdane at a gathering of government accountants and other officials in Davao City last Wednesday.

"The next president the country will elect next year would be the one who will bear the brunt of the rehabilitation efforts," said Del Rosario.

Del Rosario said while the ruling party had already picked Teodoro as standard bearer, it was the party's national convention that would make the final decision.

Del Rosario said he hoped the party will consider Ebdane as an alternative candidate.

He said Ebdane has been praising "mega-infrastructure projects" Ivan Mindanao, including the P3.1-billion Tulalod-Balubalan Road, the Sarraya-Surigao Highway and other road projects in Zamboanga peninsula.

Villar (Teodoro's midnamer) definitely is a quality candidate on," he said.

Del Rosario said Ebdane's many fans picture would not split the party because only a single candidate will be eventually chosen.

Del Rosario acknowledged he had not considered Ebdane before "but with the recent weeks ago, things changed."

Evacuees displace schoolchildren in Laguna town

BAY, LAGUNA—THE GATES OF the Bay Central Elementary School here are filled with building, and every school building, and hallway now with evacuees and children roaming around.

This is the condition in at least six schools in this town which are either still under water or filled with evacuees, forcing teachers to hold classes in the town's church, an unfinished municipal building, covered courts and other alternative venues.

Three schools in Barangay San Isidro, Tagumpay and San Antonio are still under water while at least three more schools, including the Gabriel Memorial National High School and the Bay Central Elementary School, are housing evacuees, said Antonieta Fregan, municipal social welfare and development officer.

Until now, 1,224 of 4,792 families displaced by Tropical Storm "Frank" are still in evacuation centers, mostly school, said Fregan.

Melinda Tolentino, school principal, said evacuees started arriving to their school on Sept. 26, occupying all 17 school buildings.

As of yesterday, 363 families were still in the school and teachers held classes in a nearby church, an unfinished municipal building, covered courts and other alternative venues.

On Oct. 7 the school began holding classes in the town's church, evacuees and parents of the town are using a church-based school, for Grades 1-6.

The school has 1,599 pupils, she said, but because of the floods, many have stopped going to school.

Tolentino said only a few families have left the evacuation rooms since coming back when it rains.

"We don't want it to look like we are ordering them to leave," she said.

Tolentino said evacuees were supposed to stay in the school only until Oct. 17 but they were not likely as another storm is approaching.

Eleuterio Bacquia, 39, said he and his extended family can't leave the school yet because water was still waist-deep in his home.

"The water is food-smelling," he said.

"We want to leave but we have nowhere else to go," he said.

Myra Habid, a Grade 4 teacher, said the church is not conducive to learning because there is no blackboard, there voices echo, and the teachers have to shout to be heard.

Classes stop when there are incoming evacuees. *Charlie Cabling, Philippine Daily Inquirer Southern Luzon*

THE BAY Central Elementary School is hardly recognizable as students are hung to dry in its former classrooms now its classrooms into homes.

INQUIRER Visayas

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Samar rice fields thirst for water

TITO Asirod, barangay chief of Patong in Calbiga, Samar, points to the vast rain-fed rice field in his village and its neighbors. Its yield could be doubled if the area is irrigated.

By Vicente Lobro
Tolosa City

SAMAR, THE COUNTRY'S third largest island, has 25 major rivers, but its rice fields are thirsting for irrigation water.

Most of the rivers have never been tapped for irrigation, the reason rice productivity in the island's three provinces—Samar, Northern Samar and Eastern Samar—has remained very low.

Compared to other provinces in Eastern Visayas (Leyte, Southern Leyte and Biliran, where 78 percent of irrigable lands already have water supply facilities), only 21 percent of those in Samar are irrigated.

Pastor Tito Asirod, 62, barangay chair of Patong in Calbiga town in Samar province, laments that the Calbiga River flows directly into the sea without being tapped for irrigation. Ironically, the river is less than 100 meters away from his rice fields.

According to Asirod, his five hectares of rice fields only yield 10 to 60 cavans per hectare. The harvest would have been more than doubled if his village, 3 kilometers away from the town proper, has an irrigation system.

Rainfall dependent

Bitong and its nearby villages have hundreds of hectares of rice fields which are all rain-fed.

Calbiga Mayor Melchor Nacario says he has for years been pushing for the installation of an irrigation system.

In fact, he says, a feasibility study was already made and had shown this to agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap when he, as president of the Samar chapter of the League of Municipalities, was with the entourage of President Macapagal-Arroyo during an official visit to Shanghai two years ago.

The study covered 1,000 hectares of rice lands to be irrigated in Calbiga and the nearby town of San Sebastian, and the area could be expanded to the towns of Pinabacdao and Villareal.

Sourced water irrigation water would come from the rapids along the upstream Calbiga River and flow into the canals by gravity instead of using pumps.

"Secretary Yap made a note on the cover of the feasibility study to the National Irrigation Administration to expedite the implementation of the project," he says.

When he followed up the proposal last year, the mayor was given assurances by Yap that its funding would be included in the 2009 budget. But no such item appeared in the budget, he says.

No way this year

A national policy on irrigation projects implemented last year in the wake of a rice shortage watched the hope of Calbiga having to have an irrigation facility this year.

"The policy that President Arroyo has adopted is the recommendation of the International Rice Research Institute) for us to be able to address the [rice] shortfall," says Mid Samar Administrator, chair of the Regional Development Council) and mayor of Calbayog City.

Sarmiento says the government would give priority to the restoration or rehabilitation of existing irrigation systems. "The plan is, by 2013 onwards, the new concentration will follow," he says.

He, however, says that irrigating the rice lands on Samar Island would greatly help in the country's rice production.

"In our study, if Samar would only be irrigated, we can increase our (rice) production by an additional 1.6 million metric tons. (The country's) shortfall last year was only 1.8 million metric tons," Sarmiento says.

"[The remaining lands of Samar Island] would totally be irrigated, the shortage would at most be addressed," he stresses.

Although Calbiga did not receive funding for its irrigation project, Romeo Quiza, NIA regional director, reveals that some P500,000 has been earmarked this year for its detailed engineering survey and plan preparation.

More costly in Samar

Quiza also explains why many existing irrigation systems are found in Leyte and only a few are in Samar.

"It is more expensive to develop an irrigation project in Samar," he says, adding that quality sand and gravel are not available on the island and must instead be hauled from nearby Leyte.

Moreover, irrigation dams in Samar are usually constructed upstream, or at least 25 km, thus requiring longer canals from the source to the dams.

"Because the rivers are navigable and deep, there is safe transition into the river and we cannot use only water for irrigation," Quiza says.

An irrigation project is twice costlier in Samar than in Leyte, where shallow rivers are tapped as sources, he says.

According to Quiza, the repair or rehabilitation of existing irrigation systems would cost about P60,000 per hectare, while the construction of a new one would cost from less than P100,000 (for the pump-irrigation type, which also becomes expensive because of fuel cost) to P800,000 (for the water-impounding type).

Despite the government's policy on irrigation and the high cost of developing an irrigation system on Samar island, some P350 million has been released this year for seven irrigation project in Samar town in Samar.

The project, which has been in the pipeline for almost a decade covers a total of 2,500 ha out of a potential 6,000 ha.

But what puzzles Mayor Nacario is that irrigation projects in Leyte are easily provided with funds by the national government, even in areas without water.

"Here [in Eastern Visayas], there are irrigation systems that were funded with huge amounts, almost a billion pesos, but there was no water available. One example is Tanauan [town in Leyte], which has a good irrigation structure but no water," he says.

Leyte not only produces more rice than Samar but its farmers are also better off.

24/7

**24 hours a day, 7 days a week...
yan ang sigaw ni Sec. Jun Ebdane at ng mga kawani ng Department of Public Works and Highways sa hinaharap na pagsubok ng ating bayan**

24/7 Ang commitment ni Sec. Jun Ebdane at ng mga kawani ng DPWH sa pagpaplano, pagkilos at paggawa sa mga nasirang mga imprastraktura upang maibalik sa kaayusan ang transport system ng Luzon.

24/7 Nagpapasalamat si Sec. Jun Ebdane sa lahat ng volunteer constructors at mga pribadong mamamayan na nakikiisa sa DPWH sa pagtulong, paggawa at pagmamalasakit sa ating kapwa.

24/7 Nananalangin si Sec. Jun Ebdane sa Poong Maykapal na gabayan at ilayo sa kapahamakan ang lahat ng tumutulong upang maibangon ang ating mga kababayang nasalanta ng kalamidad.

Palace: ₱12-B calamity fund in good hands

From page A1

man and a Catholic bishop has been put on charges of it.

The Special National Public Private Investor Reconstruction Commission will serve as the overseer and implementor of the fund, said Cabinet Secretary Silvestre Bello III.

Its chair, businessman Manuel V. Pangilinan, and co-chairs, Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal and Davao Archbishop Wenceslao Linsan, would guarantee against fund diversion, he said.

"Considering that the commission will be led by private individuals whose integrity is beyond reproach, I think the commission is in good hands. So the least or speculation that the funds will be diverted is a remote possibility," Bello said. It will operate in a lean setup.

President Macapagal-Arroyo had announced the creation of the commission to analyze the impact and causes of powerful storms, at the same time, seek fresh aid for the country's rehabilitation.

'Be careful'

Senators on Wednesday approved the P10-billion supplemental calamity fund under Joint Resolution No. 34, earlier passed by the House with the caveat that this should not be unallocated.

Finance committee chair Sen. Edgardo Angara warned: "Be careful with aid funds. Avoid spending overlap."

Mindful of the agricultural fund mess five years ago, senators had asked assurances that the fund would be distributed in a way that would remove the patronage of local officials, noting that there are a few months left before the May 2010 elections.

In the run-up to the 2004 presidential vote seen by Mr Arroyo, a big portion of the ₹728 million Budget Department fund was reportedly distributed as largesse to administration allies.

The fund will cover relief operations, reconstruction and rehabilitation of provinces in Luzon devastated by Tropical Storms "Ondoy" and "Pepeng" as well as Petap Island that was heavily damaged by last year's Typhoon "Frank."

Oversight committee

Press Secretary Cerge Remonde, for his part, said the setting up of a congressional oversight committee should dispel any apprehension of substitution or diversion of fund.

"We have the additional congressional oversight committees looking in to this. We have the commission, commission and most of all, we have an ever-vigilant media that will help ensure that all of this will not go to waste," he said.

Remonde also said the government's audit rules and procedures were in place to ensure transparency in the allocation and use of the fund.

Budget for disaster

Meanwhile, Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro Jr., along with the top brass of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and their staff, turned up at the Senate yesterday to defend the P50.44-billion proposed budget of the defense department for next year.

Under questioning by Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, former AFP chief of staff, Teodoro said there was need to retool the Department of National Defense's (DND) proposed budget, as it did not include funds to respond to destruction such as those wrought by Ondoy and Pepeng.

Teodoro said the troops would need more funds for provisions, oil, lubricants and other logistical requirements of rescue and relief efforts during a disaster.

He did not cite a figure, prompting Biazon to ask him to submit amendments in time for plenary deliberations of the P1.3-trillion 2010 national budget on June 9 when Congress resumes session.

Substantial amendment

"It is deemed submitted for approval[subject to submission of other requirements," said Teodoro, chuckling, to reporters that the amendment would be done during the meetings of the technical working group prior to plenary debate.

"We need to retool the budget by adding MOOE (Maintenance and other operating expenses) reserves," said the defense secretary.

He said the amendment would be "substantial" because almost all of the military equipment for Northern and Central Luzon and Metro Manila had been utilized during rescue missions for victims of Ondoy and Pepeng.

How to spend P12 billion

When asked how the P12-billion supplemental calamity fund would be spent, Teodoro said relevant government agencies should answer the question since he won't be entrusted to disburse the amount.

He attached features of the ruling Lakas-Kampi-CMD. Teodoro is expected to resign his post once he files his certificate of candidacy for president.

Senators Angara, Pia Cayetano, Richard Gordon and Aquilino Pimentel Jr. had resumed the Bicameral Finance Coordinating Council (MC-CC) headed by Teodoro against resuming the ministry fund earmarked for over a million typhoon victims.

They had said that the lump sum allocation could fall into the wrong hands, found a host of anomalous projects and buy political loyalties in the grassroots to ensure administration victories in the 2010 elections.

Irish priest's superior denies contacted by kidnappers

DUBLIN CITY—THE PHILIPPINE DIRECTOR of the Columban fathers yesterday said he was not aware of any member of the mission having had contact with the kidnappers of Irish missionary Michael Sinnott.

Fr. Patrick O'Donoghue issued the statement in response to an Inquirer story the other day which said that kidnappers had contacted Fr. Sinnott's superiors. The Inquirer obtained its information from Maj. Gen. Benjamin Dolorfino, Western Mindanao Command chief.

The Associated Press also similarly reported that a representative of the kidnappers had "made contact" with Sinnott's mission by telephone. The AP also quoted Dolorfino as source of its story.

In his statement e-mailed to the Inquirer, Fr. O'Donoghue said: "First I clarify that I personally have had no contact with any one claiming to be one of the kidnappers or representing them. Nor am I aware of any member of the Missionary Society of St. Columban having contact with the kidnappers or their representatives."

O'Donoghue said that as of Friday, they were still "anxiously waiting for some news of Fr. Mick's health and situation." He said that the 79-year-old Irish priest "needs urgent medical attention." Inquirer Mindanao

House approves ₱1.54-trillion budget for 2010

From page A1

measure will then go to the Senate.

Majority members agreed to hold morning and afternoon sessions for a week to fast-track the measure's approval and ensure that government would have enough money to cope with the recent calamities.

Complaints

However, the approved budget does not totally reflect recent grim national realities, and the fact that enormous amounts will be needed to provide for disaster relief and rehabilitation in the wake of two killer storms that hit the country in the past month.

Some party-list members complained that the 2010 budget should be geared toward helping the victims get back on their feet and ensure that the country is prepared for future calamities.

But this could also be because the House and the Senate already passed earlier this week a joint resolution authorizing President Macapagal-Arroyo to use P12 billion from unprogrammed funds—or excess funds from revenues, loans or donations—for the repair of damaged infrastructure and help the victims of the twin calamities.

Capital spending cuts

A more contentious issue was the cut in the amounts allotted for capital expenditures, or the money poured into the acquisition of equipment or fixed assets, and the building and conservation of roads and infrastructure.

Economic managers justified the cut, saying the economy no longer needed pump-priming as the global economy was improving. They also said the government needed to temper the budget deficit and could not afford to increase high spending.

Rep. Junie Cua, chair of the appropriations committee, promised the cut in capital outlay, saying it was vital to road development and to revive strategic investors.

The congressional planning and budget chairman also expressed concern at the move to slash the budget for infrastructure, noting that many of the President's Sona projects have yet to be completed, and the country's infrastructure competitive ranking was quite low.

'Violation of economic wisdom'

Akbayan party-list member Walden Bello voted against the measure for that very reason, describing it as "[violating] economic wisdom."

Bello's main objection is that the budget slashes capital outlay in a time of economic turmoil, when the wise thing to do would be to increase spending. He said those who devised the budget viewed the global economy with a too-optimistic mind-set.

Education gets lion's share

The Department of Education will get the highest share of the allocations, with P172.8 billion. Even then legislators deplored that this sum was vastly enough to meet the needs of students and to ensure that they are getting the best education possible.

While the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) got the second biggest allocation, its P405.3-billion budget was much lower than the P420.89 billion it got in 2009.

The Department of Interior and Local Government got P83.1 billion; the Department of National Defense, P62.7 billion; the Department of Agriculture, P37.8 billion; the Department of Health, P28.5 billion; the Department of Agrarian Reform, P19.7 billion; the Department of Transportation and Communications, P15 billion; the Department of Social Welfare and Development, P14.5 billion; and the Judiciary, P13 billion.

Most contentious

Discussions on the budgets of the Office of the President, the Commission on Elections (Comelec), the Metro Manila Development Authority and the DILG were among the most contentious because of the issues surrounding them agencies.

The Comelec, which will be administering the 2010 national elections, was given a P9.8.5-billion budget.

The DPWH sustained the highest budget cut, followed by the DOTC, the DI and some colleges and universities.

Those that got the biggest increases were the DBM and the DSWD, primarily because of the huge jumps in the budgets of the President's "pet programs" like the Kalahey ng Pangulo bridge-building project and the Pantawid Pamilya Program, which provides meagre cash gifts to needy families.

Pork barrel

The legislators' pork barrel, officially known as the Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF), was given P6.84 billion. The amount is lower than the P9.7 billion allotted for the PDAF in the final 2009 budget, but higher than what the House passed last year.

AFP ready to welcome 11 soldiers

From page A1

issued by the military were last Thursday after it threw out motion charges against them.

"They are seasoned fighters, they are welcome to come back because we believe they will be able to contribute again in the organization and in our fight against insurgency," Brawner said.

Capt. Ruben Custodio hailed as "the hero" of the Lanzones siege in 2001, and 10 others had spent more than three years in detention at Camp Capinpin in Tanay, Rizal.

The 11 were among 28 Marines and Army scout Rangers accused of leading and participating in a failed power grab in February 2006.

Last June, the court had dismissed four lesser charges against the group of 38, leaving them to face only the charge of violation of Article of War 97, or mutiny.

In an unexpected move last Thursday, the court-martial judge, Maj. Gen. Jesy Leo Fajos, granted a motion from the defense asking the tribunal to dismiss the mutiny case only hours after it was filed.

The tribunal granted the motion in the case of the 11 soldiers, ruling that there was no evidence linking Gutierrez and the other 10 officers in the alleged plot to topple Ms Arroyo from power.

The 11 officers ordered released were Lieutenant Marine Col. Brendel Cardugal II, Colonels Edmundo Maldanque and Sister Florentino, Maj. Ponciano Domingo Fernandez, Captains Frederick Sales and Allan Acebes, and 1st Lieutenant Rowen Bocaycayan, Jaycee Cordero, Ismael Sotomo and Richmond Caballa.

Decision on Gen. Lim, et al. Oct. 27

The court ruled to be given until Oct. 27 to decide whether it will grant the motion in favor of the remaining 17, who include Army Brig. Gen. Eraldo Lim, Marine Col. Noel Quevedo, Lt.Col. Gimeliño Ibarra and the former Marine commandant Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda.

Prosecutors alleged that Lim and Quevedo intended to lead mostly junior officers in a march on Edsa coinciding with the 20th anniversary of the first Edsa People Power Revolution and announce they were withdrawing support from the President.

Miranda was accused of having knowledge of the plan.

On Feb. 26, 2006, a group of Marines, led by Quevedo, barricaded themselves in Fort Bonifacio in protest against the sacking of their commandant, Miranda.

Medal of Valor awardee

Hours after the court ruling, Custodio said he was ready to return to the battlefield.

"I am physically and emotionally ready to go back to the service and I am looking forward to seeing them (the AFP leaders) eye to eye and shaking their hands," his friends quoted him as saying.

Custodio, who received a medal for valor when he led a battalion of Army scouts in a 2001 gun battle against Abu Sayyaf extremists who had kidnapped three Americans and several other tourists from the Dos Palmas resort, admitted that he was a bit nervous to begin.

"I have to rearrange my life and set my priorities again. But definitely I am going back and will just take it from there," his friends quoted him as saying.

Thanksgiving party

The wives of the 11 officers are planning to hold a thanksgiving party at Camp Capinpin, according to Josefina, the wife of Capt. Frederick Sales.

Retired about her husband's homecoming, Josefina said she would help him pack his things today even if the AFP Chief Victor Ibrado has yet to issue an order for the soldiers' release.

"I am super-duper happy that finally we get justice after more than three years," she said.

Josefina is particularly delighted that she will be getting her husband for Christmas with her husband by her side.

"After the trial they told me that pregnant women usually brings luck," she said with a chuckle.

Overwhelmed

Theridan's wife, Cherry Ann, skipped Thursday's trial, thinking it was going to be just an disappointing and sad as those she had diligently attended.

"I was really not expecting it. I already lost hope and I was just waiting for (SBM (President Macapagal-Arroyo) to step down in 2010," she said.

"I am still overwhelmed by the ruling, but we really were happy that finally the truth came out," she added.

But she said she would not let her husband return to the military.

"We can always serve the country without being in the service," she said.

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TAKING A STAND
Students of Ramon Magsaysay High School in Cubao, Quezon City take part in the International Day Against Poverty celebration yesterday highlighted by a forum and a photo exhibit. JOAN ANDAYA

Check candy man's stuff before buying

By Tina G. Santos

MANILA CITY HALL OFFICIALS yesterday warned the public, especially children, to be careful in making candy purchases, especially after the typhoons.

The warning came after operatives of the Mayor's Complaints and Action Team seized from a Tondo junk shop mounds of candies that were reportedly salvaged from floodwaters.

The candies, including jellycue candy with brand names Cute Pops, Karate Pops, Bella Jawbike, were allegedly repacked and sold again to neighborhood sari-sari (variety) stores, according to city officials.

Acting on a tip from a concerned citizen, members of the Mayor's Complaints and Action Team and the Manila Health Office swooped down on Capulong General Merchandise on Capulong Street. Most of the items were still covered with mud when these were found.

The informant claimed that candy items were seen being brought to the junk shop right after the recent typhoons.

The city executives, who said they were told that the shop operators wiped the mud off the candies, repacked them in new plastic bags and then sold these at 75 a kilo.

Endo Pangilinan, owner of the shop, however, claimed they were not recalling the items but were only checking out the plastic packs for recycling.

Pangilinan faces charges for violations of Presidential Decree 856 or the Code of Sanitation.

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URBAN INSTITUTE OF REAL ESTATE

Client killed after making withdrawal from bank

Father hurt in ambush by robbers on motorcycle

By Nancy C. Carvajal

A BANK CLIENT WAS KILLED WHILE HIS FATHER was seriously injured after they were waylaid by robbers riding in tandem on board a motorcycle yesterday afternoon.

The pair were in their car and had stopped for a refill at a gasoline station (where they were ambushed) as soon as they stepped out of a bank along Tomas Morato Avenue in Quezon City.

Supt. Edgardo Pantinan, commander of Quezon City Police District station 11 identified the victim as Rolly Pamaraga, 58.

His father, Romeo, 64, was later brought to a hospital where he is being treated for gunshot wounds.

Stopover

Pantinan said the Hamangios had just withdrawn around P150,000 from a Metrobank branch and decided to pass by a Shell station at the corner of E. Rodriguez Avenue for gasoline.

One of the suspects suddenly appeared and immediately fired at the victims.

The robbers then grabbed the money the victims were carrying.

The police official told reporters that the suspects, whom he identified as Pedro de Leon and Ricky Geronimo, were arrested along Roxy Go Robinsons Street at the corner of Kamias Boulevard onboard their motorcycle, a few blocks away from the crime scene.

Dragnet

He added that the suspects were flagged down during a police dragnet implemented immediately after the attack.

The suspects were positively identified by the elder Hamangit and other witnesses gathered at the gasoline station where the attack took place, according to the police official.

De Leon was carrying an unlicensed .9-mm pistol when he was frisked by police, he added.

The money withdrawn from a teller at the bank, however, was not recovered.

Pantinan said the P150,000 could have been pinned on to other members of the robbery group before the two suspects were apprehended.

The police official added that during questioning, the suspects denied involvement in the incident, despite the fact that they were positively identified by the victim as well as other witnesses.

MMDA bats for illegal settlers' 'in-city relocation'

By Allison W Lopez

INFORMAL SETTLERS (SQUATTERS) for the recent flooding in Metro Manila need not be relocated to the provinces, according to the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA).

MMDA chair Bayani Fernando, who also heads the Metro Manila Inter-Agency Committee (MMCEC) on informal settlers, said they were exploring the "in-city relocation" of poor families whose shanties constricted waterways and aggravated the floodwaters caused by the two typhoons that hit the country recently.

"Instead of flushing them out of Metro Manila to the nearby provinces, we are thinking of constructing medium-rise buildings for the squatter families. These buildings will be built in idle government and private lots in Metro Manila," he said in a statement.

Fernando said he would tell how President Macapagal-Arroyo's order to dismantle the shanties, but stressed that housing the poor remained a problem. He estimated that there were about 500,000 squatter families, or three million people out of the total population of 14 million in Metro Manila.

Around two million people lived along the riverbanks and the different waterways in Metro Manila, he added.

The urban development of Marikina Valley could also be blamed for the flooding, he said.

"In 1909 and 1937 the same flooding happened in the so-called Marikina Valley that includes Quezon City, Marikina, Pasig City and Cainta in Rizal province, but nobody was affected because the rainwater that came from the river in the upland area in Rizal just flows to the rice fields," Fernando said.

The MMDA chair noted that the area had not been developed at the time or the water simply flowed to the rice fields, discharged to Laguna Lake and Marikina River, then to Manila Bay.

But the same areas are now filled with homes, with some encroaching the waterways, further constricting the flow of water, he said.

Let's plant trees to prevent floods

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

DISTRESS OF BLAMING THE the government for the floods, landslides and landslides caused by Tropical Storm "Ondoy" and Typhoon "Pepeng," let us do something so that we will be fewer deaths and less destruction in the future.

"Sir" means the people, the ordinary citizens, We and I.

Let's not depend on the government to make things happen for us, since our governments cannot be depended upon.

Person now on, let's not throw garbage into our rivers, creeks and canals.

And what we see people throwing garbage into our waterways, let's tell them of the future consequences of their actions and cite the destruction caused by Ondoy and Pepeng.

Let's tell them that plastic waste clogged our drainage system and rivers, and so the water overflowed and flooded our homes.

If they don't listen, let's report them to the authorities.

If the authorities don't listen to our complaints, let's go to the media and report their indifference.

Floodwaters rampaged from our homes and mountains because thirty years ago trees whose roots could have absorbed the rainwater.

Let's repeat illegal loggers, increase in the prices of gasoline and other petroleum products.

He doesn't have the power to control the law of supply and demand.

If there is an excess supply of a certain commodity, its price goes down.

Conversely, if there is a great demand for the same, its price goes up.

Bayan said the old Energization Law prohibits the government from intervening and regulating prices of petroleum products.

"You don't have to be an economics expert to understand Bayan.

* * *

An anecdote—it may be apocryphal—about Ramon Magsaysay said that the most popular president the country ever once asked his advisers to bring down the price of rice, the country's staple food.

Why, we cannot do that since we'll be interfering with the law of supply and demand. Rice is scarce in the market because we had a poor harvest," said his economic advisers.

Magsaysay is said to have shrugged and his advisers hung their head and then said: "I will ask Congress to repeal that law."

MORE WASTE
Environmental activists protest against the presence of waste and debris gathered after the typhoons allegedly dumped in the Pasig River, governor and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority boss Bayani Fernando. Marikina Mayor Marides Fernando has denied the accusation.

Taguig cops top award for nutrition program

By Marlon Ramos

WITH THE CITY STILL REELING from floods that ravaged many of its villages, the Taguig City government got a much needed boost after it was cited for its efforts to reduce hunger in the city.

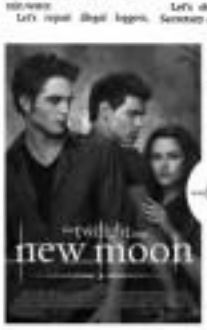
The National Nutrition Council (NNC) of the Department of Health recently honored Taguig with the best Accelerated Hunger Mitigation Program during the country's 1st Carmel Bighani Awards.

"This award proves that the city government is on the right track, not only in addressing the problem of hunger in Taguig, but also in ensuring that our programs diversify benefit our constituents," Mayor Freddie Tiñga said in a statement.

"And it all the more gives us the inspiration to pursue our advocacy against hunger and malnutrition," he added.

Apart from acknowledging local empowerment units which support the national government's hunger mitigation agenda, the award was also aimed at encouraging pioneering work to eliminate hunger at the local level.

In the case of Taguig, the NNC recognized its efforts to introduce livelihood programs to residents while promoting home and school-based health and nutrition programs.



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Accused in Barrameda case moved to QC hospital

By Beverly T. Nachalial

MANUEL JIMENEZ JR., ONE of the accused in the murder of his daughter-in-law, Ruby Rose Bautista-de Jimenez, was transferred to the Philippine Heart Center (PHC) earlier this week after he was told by the court he is down in a government hospital.

His temporary warden, Angono (Rizal) chief of police Supt. Ramulfed Bolonkito, also asked the court to transfer the accused under the jurisdiction of the Quezon City Police District or to the National Capital Region Police Office, after his transfer out of Rizal province.

Jimenez will be spending his hospital arrest at the PHC while the Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 170 is still hearing his petition for bail.

The suspect earlier asked the court to put him under hospital arrest, upon advice of his doctor because of heart problems.

Jimenez was confined at the Angono Medico Hospital immediately after he surrendered to police on Sept. 4, after an arrest warrant was issued against him.

Bautista has already filed a motion asking the court to assign the QC police as Jimenez's jailer, since the PHC is located in Jimenez's hometown Angono province.

The visits were also ordered by Makati Metropolitan RTC Judge Hector Alburquerque as the court can verify Jimenez's state of health.

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MetroBriefs

Complaint vs Claudine junked

THE OMBUDSMAN'S Prosecutor's Office has dismissed a complaint against actress Claudine Barretto filed by attorney Jude who accused her husband and presiding Justice Teresita Leonardo-De Castro, Assistant Ombudsman Prosecutor Leonardo Raul Gonzales junked the complaint filed by Ramon Jr. Cruz for lack of probable cause, saying it was not relevant to the SSS for verification. "Nevertheless, the case before us does not bear any proof or certification from the SSS to show that an...dent had indeed violated the provisions contained in the pertinent provisions of the Social Security Act," it read. The resolution, dated Oct. 13, named Barretto (Claudine Margaret Barretto Santiago) in real life, as the respondent for allegedly violating Republic Act No. 8282 or the Social Security Act of 1997. The Barretto complaint against her former employer in 2008, alleging that Barretto failed to report her employment as the actress' personal assistant, harassment and humiliation to the SSS. The actress denied the allegations, claiming that the complaint was meant to serve as leverage to a qualified theft case she filed against Cruz.

John Bryan Ulanday

Cell phones may provide clue

TWO cell phones may hold the key to the death of a 23-year-old bank employee who fell to his death from the rooftop of the 23-storey Primex Plaza 111 in Legaspi Village, Makati City yesterday morning. Investigators of Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corp. suffered head and body fractures and was declared dead on arrival at Ospital ng Makati, according to SPO2 Leonilo Crisostomo of the Makati police investigation division. An initial investigation showed that Ventura had went to work before going to the construction site. At around 6:30 a.m. the accident's security guard heard a loud thud. Upon investigation, he discovered the victim's dead body. The case investigator said two mobile phones and an ID were found on a table on the roof top. Crisostomo added that investigators may have sneaked into the building since he did not have any room in the condolent, and his name was not registered in the guard's logbook for visitors. Both the entrance and elevator have television cameras installed only in the buildings elevators. Crisostomo said they would have to rely on the mobile phones found inside case to the victim's death. Though they were looking into a possible suicide, Crisostomo said they have not ruled out foul play.

Allison W. Lopez

Binay bent on veep post

MAKATI Mayor Jejomar Binay vowed he would still join the race for the vice presidency even if my running mate, former President Joseph Estrada, is disqualified from running in 2010.

Though they were "not bothered" by the threat of Estrada's disqualification, the United Opposition president yesterday said they would explore options when the issue of legality is resolved. "We believe that the people should be the final decision-maker. But if that matter is resolved with finality, we will press on," he said. Estrada and Binay are expected to make a formal announcement since their nominations on Oct. 21 in Tondo, Manila.

Allison W. Lopez

The WORLD

Editor Lorenne B. Gasco

WORLDBRIEFS

Afghan revote seen as probe reduces Karzai share

WASHINGTON—A fraud probe into Afghan elections has slimmed President Hamid Karzai's vote share to just 47 percent, a report said on Friday, while a runner-side conceded a second round could be in the offing. The much-awaited tally by the UN-backed Electoral Complaints Commission will trigger a run-off between Karzai and his nearest competitor, former foreign minister Abdullah Abdullah, because Karzai's portion of the final 29 vote was lowered to below 50 percent. The Washington Post reported. One rifle be familiar with the tally, due to be finalized on Friday, described the results to the newspaper as "stunning." Afghanistan's Independent Election Commission had given Karzai 54.6 percent in its preliminary results, which would position him for a second five-year term. Those results gave Abdullah around 28 percent of the vote. But Afghanistan's ambassador to the United States, Said Tayeb Jawad, conceded on the first time on Thursday that the disputed elections could enter a second round and pushed to hold the run-off quickly.

AFP

Suicide car bombing kills 11 in Peshawar

PESHAWAR, Pakistan—A suspected suicide car bomb ripped through a police building in an army garrison of Pakistan's northwest city of Peshawar on Friday, killing up to 11 people, police said. It was the second bomb attack in Peshawar in 24 hours, striking a day after 40 people died in a wave of militant attacks against security targets in Pakistan's eastern city Lahore and the country's volatile northwest.

AFP

4 percent of adults worldwide using cannabis

PARIS—Nearly four percent of adults around the world use cannabis, even though the drug raises many major health concerns, according to a paper published in The Lancet on Friday. It cited figures from the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, which estimated that in 2006 there were 158 million users of cannabis aged from 15-64, or 3.8 percent of the world's population in this age category. The drug is most used among young people in rich countries, led by the United States, Australia and New Zealand, followed by Europe, but appears to be becoming popular on a global scale, with use rising in low- and middle-income countries, it said.

AFP

Interracial couple denied marriage license in US

NEW ORLEANS—A Louisiana justice of the peace said he refused to issue a marriage license to an interracial couple out of concern for any children the couple might have. Keith Bardwell, justice of the peace in Tangipahoa Parish, says it is his experience that most interracial marriages do not last long. Both Humphrey, 30, and 22-year-old Terence McKay, both of Hammond, say they will consult the US Justice Department about filing a discrimination complaint. Humphrey, an account manager for a marketing firm, said she and McKay, a welder, just returned to Louisiana. She is white and he is black. "That was one thing that made this so unbelievable," she said. "It's not something you expect in this day and age."

AP

Obama fires back at critics who say he has done little

Boy asks president: Why do people hate you?

NEW ORLEANS—US PRESIDENT Barack Obama fired back on Thursday at critics who say he has few accomplishments of note in his nine months in office and declared he was just getting started.

In recent weeks, Obama has faced criticism both from liberals who want him to do more to advance causes such as gay rights, and conservatives who accuse him of taking too long to decide whether to send more US troops to Afghanistan.

A comedy skit on NBC's "Saturday Night Live" program a couple of weeks ago drew attention to the issue. An actor playing the president said, "When you look at my record, it's even clear what I've done so far, and that is: Nothing. Nada. Absolute zero point, and nothing to show for it."

The television was magnified after Obama was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize a week ago—when even some commentators sympathetic to the president said it seemed premature.

Obama, making his first trip as president to any effects in recovery from Hurricane Katrina in 2005, opened a town-hall meeting by saying his words had led to some improvement in the US economy and brought an overhaul of the US healthcare system within reach this year.

"Now, just in case any of you were wondering, I never thought any of this was going to be easy," he said. "You know, I listen to common-sense reasons on the news (who say) 'Well, why haven't you solved world hunger yet?'"

OBAMA at the Dr. Martin Luther King Charter School in the Lower 9th Ward of New Orleans, La., on Oct. 15.

AP

At the crowd laughed, he said: "Why hasn't everybody done it? It's been nine months. Why? I never said it was going to be easy. What did I say during the campaign? I said change is hard. And big change is harder."

In what seemed a reference to Republicans opposed to Democratic healthcare proposals, Obama accused them of "trying to stand in the way of progress."

"Let me tell you: I'm just getting started," Obama said.

The town-hall meeting showed evidence of the partisan divide to America.

When the Democratic Obama introduced Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, a rising star in Republican politics, some in the crowd booed until Obama smiled them down and hailed Jindal as a hard-working politician.

At the end of the event, a young schoolboy named Brenner Sean asked Obama, "Why do people hate you?"

"Well, now, first of all, I did get elected president, so not everybody hates me sure," Obama replied. "I got a whole lot of votes."

"But you know, what is true is if you were watching TV lately, it seems like everybody's just getting mad all the time," Obama said, blaming the climate in part on politics and on conservatives among Americans about losing jobs or their healthcare.

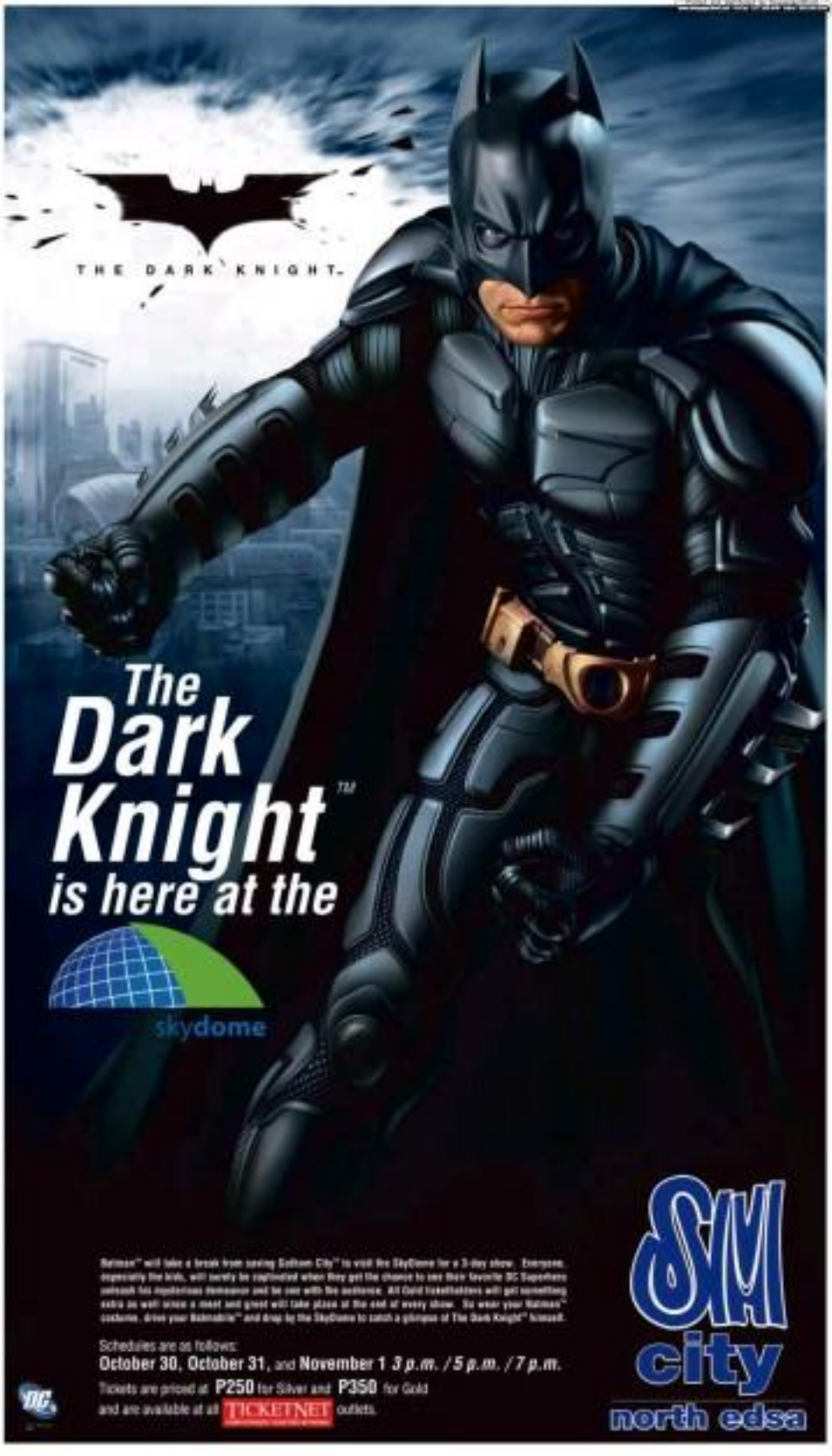
"And when things are going tough, then, you know, you're going to get some of the blame, and that's part of the job. But you know, I'm a pretty tough guy," he said.

At a Democratic fundraiser in San Francisco later on Thursday Obama pressed the counterattack against his conservative critics, saying he believed in having a "loyal opposition" but rejected it "when some folks decide to sit on the sidelines and root for failure."

He insisted that he and his Democratic allies in Congress were "busy with a mop cleaning up somebody else's mess," alluding to the litany of pressing problems he inherited from his Republican predecessor George W. Bush.

"We don't want somebody sitting back and saying 'you're not holding the mop the right way, you're not mopping fast enough, that's a sensible mop,'" Obama said to laughter from hundreds of party donors.

REUTERS


THE DARK KNIGHT
The Dark Knight™ is here at the
skydome
Batman™ will take a break from saving Gotham City™ to visit the SkyDome for a 3-day show. Everyone, especially the kids, will surely be captivated when they get the chance to see their favorite DC Superhero unleash his mysterious demeanor and be one with the audience. All Gold ticketholders will get something extra as well since a meet and greet will take place at the end of every show. So wear your Batman™ costume, drive your Batmobile™ and drop by the SkyDome to catch a glimpse of The Dark Knight™ himself.
Schedules are as follows:
October 30, October 31, and November 1 3 p.m. / 5 p.m. / 7 p.m.
Tickets are priced at P250 for Silver and P350 for Gold
and are available at all TICKETNET outlets.
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WHAT'S INSIDE

■ **Lions back** in finals; Bombers stay alive /A24

Editor Teddyboy S. Melendres • Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa

SPORTS

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■ **Burger** King rips Smart Gilas five /A26

WINNING! Arboleda of Burger King charges up the stands and attacks foe Alain Kaligbak (inset). Story on Page A24.

Realtors defang Tigers

Reyes back, sparks fired-up Sta. Lucia squad

By Marc B. Castillo

NO WHO NEEDS DEFENSE EXPERT?

Playing without Espino in its lineup for the first time in 14 years, Sta. Lucia showed no power shortage at all by ripping its former skipper's new squad, Coca-Cola, 93-75, last night in its 32nd Philippine Cup debut at the Araneta Coliseum.

"I'd like to say that we are one of the top teams in the PBA," Sta. Lucia coach Boyet Fernandez declared. "I cannot say when ends, but we will be there. Talaro man, my team has the capability of matching up with the best."

Five Realtors scored 13-or-more with the newlywed Ryan Reyes showing the way with 21 points. All but one of the 12 players scored as Sta. Lucia virtually settled the issue after three quarters with a huge 70-56 lead.

GAME TODAY
(Araneta, Cubao)
Barako Bull vs Alaska
1 p.m.—Gay Mitchell vs Pilipino
GAME TOMORROW
(Araneta, Cubao)
Air21 vs Talk 'N Text
4 p.m.—Dondon Hontiveros vs Dickie Cola
6:30 p.m.—Pinoy Meralco vs Ginebra

Sta. Lucia didn't show signs of missing Espino as it held its own off the boards even with Coca-Cola cone-hacking twin towers combination formed by the former ALR mainstay and Red Dalupan.

The 14 seasons by Espino with Sta. Lucia runs the longest by any active player with a team in the league, and his trade was supposed to benefit the Tigers no end after they got a veteran and a team leader as well.

But Espino was good for only eight points and eight rebounds against his former team, which he led to the title here two seasons ago to earn Finals Most Valuable Player honors, the first in his career.

Another Dennis who was a key in that championship run two seasons ago, Dennis Miranda, who was dropped to San Miguel has

NBA/UNIV: A26

Champs League: West Negros rules Visayas regionals

By Cedrill P. Tupas

BACOLOD CITY—INVET MERIDIAN University overcame a rugged stand by John B. Lacson Montinver Foundation University to win, 80-69, and complete a sweep of the Visayas regional tournament of the Philippine Collegiate Champions League at the WNU Gym Thursday night.

Playmaker Mike Villanueva pumped in 19 points and made improved center Raul Sayael finished with 15 to power the Meridians to the zonal qualifying phase in Cebu next month.

The Meridians will slug it out in Cebu with Adamson, Arellano University, San Sebastian Center, Holy Trinity College of Dumaguete and the second to fourth placers of the Cebu Schools Athletic Foundation with the top two teams advancing to the Nov. 15-18 Tiong Bio Memorial Basketball Tournament.

Already assured of slots in the Sweet 16 are UAAP champion Ateneo, University of the East, Far Eastern U, University of Santo Tomas and NCAA Final Four squads San Beda, San Sebastian, Jose Rizal U and Lyceum. Another spot has also been assured for the Cebu champion.

Villanueva and Sayael sparked a strong second quarter that allowed WNU to pull away from 39-all.

"It will take a lot of effort from us to make the Sweet 16, but games like this prepare us for that challenge," said Meridians coach Tony Servañez.

The 6-foot-4 Sayael, 18, who cut out late season to polish his game, flashed a well-rounded offensive game in the second period where he scored 10 points.

With the Dolphins opting for a more physical game, the Meridians used their speed to take a 61-48 lead with 16 seconds left in the third period.

The scores:

WNU 80 — Villanueva 19, Sayael 15, Jamolo 14, Jopet 8, Andrew 8, Sandin 5, Lacson 4, Jose 2, Agrupis 2, Aquilani, Bacia 0.

JBLMFI 69 — Peterson 17, Inocain 16, Solano 15, Lagapanga 8, Solano 6, Sevan 3, Arano 2, Dionela 2, Sandoval 0.

Quarters: 15-15, 40-42, 61-48, 80-69

Lions back in finals; Bombers stay alive

GILBERT Bulawan of San Sebastian tries to guard off JRU's Mckenzie Njoc (right) and James Sena in yesterday's game.

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE SAN SEBASTIAN LIONS GATHERED IN A CIRCLE NEAR CENter court and put their arms on each other's shoulders.

"Pride celebration after beating a rival's trip in the finals for the fourth straight year was subdued. They were reserving their energy for the bigger task ahead.

"We have an intimate party to attend to, to strike a fourth straight championship," said San Beda coach Frankie Lim after the Lions swallowed a late charge by Letran for an 82-76 decision yesterday to the semifinals of the NCAA basketball tournament at the FIBE Flying V Arena in San Juan.

The Lions' title opponent won't be known until Monday, however, as last year's losing finalist Jose Rizal U forced a sudden-death match against second seed San Sebastian with a 72-65 victory.

Cinderrosalian forward Nikeena Njoc and Historia Hayes made key baskets in the stretch to help the Bombers stay on course of ending a 27-year title drought.

"We're very good when the spotlight is cast on us," said JRU coach Jerry Odrigueza.

Playing their third game in five days, the Lions struggled at the start before unleashing a strong finishing kick orchestrated by Reggie Herrada.

Herrada came up with a crucial steal and a basket that gave San Beda a 69-68 lead with 4:30 left in the game.

Two free throws by Jeff Chan and a basket by Jeric Teng pushed the Lions' lead to 73-68 with 1:30 left.

Letran rookie Kevin Alas hit 10 of his 20 points in the fourth period to help the Knights trim the deficit to 74-77.

The Knights moved close enough behind Alas' 3-point play with 1:04 left to set up Rookie Jeff Chan's game-winning triple with 23 seconds left.

The Lions had their ball sent on Thursday in the Araneta Coliseum.

The Red Cubs earlier put San Beda on track for a title double with a 89-76 victory over the Jose Rizal Light Bombers.

Waiting for the Red Cubs in the best-of-three finals are the Letran Spartes, who trounced the Staglers, 89-84, in the other Final Four showdown.

The early scores

First game

JRU 89 — Ilas-Nieva 17, Lerado 17, Bonat 16, Pascual 12, Gonzalez 8, Rosales 6, Suyat 2, Ilo

SAN BEDA 76 — Chan 20, Teng 14, Ayel 10, Saldua 10, Arana 8, Fernandez 6, Ilao 5, Adel Rosario 3, Rabanes 2, Cabanag, Lim, Ilao

Second game

LETRAN 89 — Alas 20, Ilao 17, Nieto 15, Dizon 10, Capacio 10, Ilao 6, Chua 5, Cabanag 3, Ilao 2, Ilao

SAN SEBASTIAN 84 — Ilao 20, Ilao 16, Ilao 15, Ilao 12, Ilao 10, Ilao 6, Ilao 5

Former PBA stars spark Brunei past KL quintet

FORMER PBA LACERS Kiko Adriano rebounded 23 points as the Brunei Barracudas pulled off a 84-76 upset of the Kuala Lumpur Dragons in the Asean Basketball League (ABL) recently at the Malaysian stadium in Malaysia.

Adriano, one of three Filipino imports playing for Brunei, added six rebounds, three assists and a couple of steals to lead the Barracudas to their first victory in two outings.

Brunei, a scorer-playing nation now leaning on its foreign-dominated basketball team, also drew localized import 6'9 power forward Antoine Johnson, Michael Dipitro and Lamin Jones.

"They (players) executed what I've told them to do," Filipino coach Bong Ramos told the Borneo Bulletin.

"We were able to control the tempo of the game from the beginning until the end. Credit also has to be given to the tough defense put up by the players."

The Barracudas, 87-69 loser to the Singapore Slingers last week, get going with a 26-9 blast as Adriano teamed last skrog with fellow PBA import Lee Antonio and Don Carasco.

Arenido finished with 15 points on top of eight rebounds and four assists, while Carasco delivered 11 points and seven boards.

The Dragons dropped to 0-1 along with Indonesia Satria Muda BritAma to the fledgling regional commercial cage league.

Jasmine W. Payo

The scores:

BRUNEI 84 — Adriano 23, Dipitro 21, Jones 17, Arenido 15, Carasco 11, Tan 5.

(20-12 4-6 3rd 16-6 4th 24-12)

KUALA LUMPUR 76 — Gan 18, Lyon 13, Hon 12, Brunei, Chin 8, Balendra, Hadi 6, Ho 5, Loh 0.

Quarters: 29-9, 51-37, 76-65, 84-76

SPORTSWATCH

LGBA champ knows today

FROM A TOUGH FIELD OF 150 GAME hard troopers, the champions will emerge today in the Lucio Gamecock Breeders Association (LGBA) 1-Slug Derby series at San Juan's 2-D Cafe.

The slugfest has a guaranteed prize of more than P1 million.

Fifteen series with 3-O win-loss rates each survive the field, among them the series of Cecilio Lanugan and Pablo Yap, Lucio Delrudo, Boy Zamolla, Jun Bachelor, Rong Bagalay, Jun Lumandas and John Reyes and Danny Hidik.

The meet is hosted by Lakpue Drug Inc., Sacobia and Pharmaton.

The second leg of the LGBA series carries on Oct. 21, 23 and 28.

Xavier five battles Aquinas

DEFENDING CHAMPION XAVIER SCHOOL goes for its fourth straight win against Aquinas Parkwood in the Philippine Inter-High School basketball tournament at 3 p.m. today at the San Juan Gym.

In the other matches, Bonifacio Global Stars (BGS) Montessori at 12 p.m. while San Juan National High School at 1:30 p.m. Philippine Christian Academy at 3:30 p.m.

BY TOP CHOICE
At Santa Ana Park

What we didn't know about this silent hero

BARE EYE
Recah Trinidad

JAGMAT PICKS-O-MOMAN Manny Pacquiao will sing Miguel Cotto in their forthcoming fight for the World Boxing Organization welterweight crown inside 12 rounds. This prediction was made by former Sen. Ramon Revilla Sr., popularly known as the local movie world to against, earlier in the week. Pagmasi said he's very certain Cotto will not last the distance," international matchmaker Jun Sarmol told the tricolon yesterday. Sarmol, who visited Revilla in his plantation in Cavite, said the former senator has recovered tremendously from a stroke suffered nearly a year ago. Sarmol revealed that, before Pacquiao's fight against Golden Boy Oscar De La Hoya, "Agmasi" ordered his son, Sen. Bong Revilla, to go to the bank and place a bet on Pacquiao, then an awful underdog.)

ARTURO MACAPAGAL, PRESIDENT of the Philippine Olympian Association, announced on Wednesday the passing away of Olympian Rodrigo del Rosario.

That was the opening sentence of a press release sent by Erich Roland Medina, media relations officer of the Philippine Sports Commission, the other day.

Yesterday, we requested additional information on the late former Olympic weightlifter.

"I will attend his wake tonight to get you more details," Medina said.

* * *

That was very nice of him.

Of course, the PSC and the Philippine Olympic Committee need not be told that Del Rosario deserved more than scant mention after busting double-end for life to Philippine sports.

The PSC release added that Del Rosario, 80, passed away on October 10 and that his body lies at the Funeraria Heroes at 1019 Pedro Gil St., Paco.

Del Rosario, from Cabugao, Ilocos Sur, represented the country in three Olympics: London 1948, Helsinki 1952 and Melbourne 1956.

It's generally known that Del Rosario did not enjoy a medal in those three Olympic stints.

But what many Filipino sports fans don't know is that, although he never won an Olympic medal, Del Rosario managed to set an Olympic record.

* * *

During the 1952 Olympiad, Del Rosario lifted 300 kg in the featherweight press which broke the record of 290 kg made in the 1948 London Olympics," Medina noted in his press release.

"He placed 4th overall in the Helsinki Olympics after placing 5th in London," the release added.

* * *

Hi: Sara, the PSC statement added, inspired his son, Arturo, and a nephew, Salvador, to take up the sport of weightlifting and they too became Olympians.

Salvador was awarded a world weightlifting gold medal in the late 60s.

* * *

The three-time Olympian managed to set an Olympic record but did not land a medal.

That's how not be the different from the Philippine basketball teams in the 1936 Berlin Olympics which lost only once, to eventual winner United States, but finished only fifth overall in the final standings.

* * *

Nothing much was heard about Rodrigo del Rosario after his third and final Olympic stint in Melbourne.

He actually never stopped serving Philippine sports.

Del Rosario, to those who did not notice him through the years, was the same silver-serving forward in blue sneakers, who stood like a lone ore at the main entrance of the Rizal Memorial Coliseum where the Philippine Amateur Athletic Federation (PAAF), forerunner of the PSC, had its offices there.

His remains will be cremated today.

Troubled NSAs told: Field 'Dream Teams'

By Marc Anthony Reyes

SEND A 'DREAM TEAM.'

Philippine Sports Commissioner chairman Ricardo Arganosa suggested this yesterday to solve the conflicting choices of Southeast Asian Games selectees by the leadership-wracked national sports associations to billiards and cycling.

"That's the solution that I can see, because you can't just consider one group and ignore the other, which may also have strong chances for winning gold medals," said Arganosa, veteran agency heads the athletes' participation in the SEA Games.

The PSC chief said when the NSAs arrive in Laos on Dec. 9 to 16, "they must set aside their differences and compete under one banner."

"All of us should be Team Philippines when we go to the SEA Games," he said. "After that they can resume their disputes and settle their differences."

He said he will call all the billiards players and cyclists on for one explain to them his idea.

"I think this time I should go straight to the athletes," he said.

Arganosa said the final lineups for both cycling and billiards will depend on the recommendation of the PSC committee monitoring the performances of the athletes.

Ocean Fresh dribblers score

TWO-TIME CHAMPION SOLAR FRESH-OCEAN romped over the Philippine Christian University Dasmariñas, 92-68, at the start of the program-elimination at the Ateneo de Manila University.

Greg Slaughter led the defensive and came through with 15 points and 11 rebounds in the final 40 minutes.

Ocean Fresh-Lyceum engaged with the unbeaten Lyceum Pirates in the second game.

Jun Chavez Fresh-Lyceum regrouped in time, closing the game with 6-3 run capped by a fast-break layup by Joseph Mendoza at three minutes.

Greg finished with 17 points, while Mendoza added 10.

ANGPING

CANGOLF OPEN

Ababa reclaims crown by a shot

By Maureg B. Castillo

CAMSUR, CAMSUR, LAZU-RIN—Jonel Ababa fired a 3-under-par 69 yesterday and came back from two strokes down to finish a record Cantabong Amateur Open championship by a shot at the South Forbes.

Forging ahead on his 11 talisman second-round birdie Teodito Asuncion went out of bounds. Also hampered his nine-foot putt on, crucial par saves, he clinched a brilliant up-and-down effort after missing the par-5 18th hole.

Ababa, the outstood team mainstay who was also the 2006 champ, totalled 212 and became just the second player after Jovie Pagsuyuan in two decades to successfully defend.

Asuncio, a pro save, prevailed from three down.

Asuncio, the overnight leader after a sizzling second round 68, closed with a 72 and settled for a tie for second at 213 with national amateur champion Mark Fernando.

A Cabalegan mainstay like Ababa, Fernando submitted the day's best score of 68.

Asuncio, bidding to become the first back-to-back winner of this tournament, was tied with Ababa going to the 11th tee before he hit his drive way out of bounds to the right.

But he rebounded in consecutive going to the par-5 closing hole where Ababa held up while the ICSTI standout faced the trap guarding the right side of the green after a long second shot.

Ababa went on to make the green with a sand wedge but the product of the National Golfers Open program chipped in within four feet for par, even as Asuncio couldn't get it close for the coping birdie.

Dante Bautista, the former Hong Kong Amateur swimmer, shot a 71 and settled for fourth at 215, a stroke ahead of ICTSI teammates Tantoto Boy Glaiza, who had a 69.

ABABA

Playing in the final flight, fourth Korean Young Jeung Jun, who shot an impressive 67 on Thursday, couldn't handle the lines and signed for a 75 that dropped him out of six overnight for the second spot with a 219 tally.

Alvin Engino fired a 71 for 222, while Italian Reycne had scored a 70 and a 227 total like Jessie Balasabas, who shot a 76.

In Iloilo Children Revita, meanwhile, completed a nine-in-nine triumph in the 36-hole women's event with another 73 for a seven-shot victory over Imelda Alaba, who submitted a 75.

Cantabong's Baby Lauren took the net championship with a 83 for 146, while Bernie Cantin, also of Cantagolf, finished second with a 143 after a 73. Anya Tampinco rounded up third with a 73 for a 145.

UCSUM'S Joy Canet tries to penetrate the defended end post up by UST's Meiko Ortiz and Rica Mata in yesterday's game.

Tigresses unscathed

Adamson tossers too good for Lady Maroons

By Cedrill P. Tupas

ANGELA BENTINE, INU SOMEHO AND Ali Gumbs found their groove and powered Adamson past University of the Philippines, 25-13, 25-21, 25-15, yesterday in the Shakey's Ka-ngat-an Season 6 second conference at Ateneo's Blue Eagle gym in Loyola Heights, Quezon City.

The Lady Falcons, drawing a confidence 25 points from the smashing trio, savored their second straight win after dropping their opening match to the University of Santo Tomas Tigresses last Sunday.

In the second game, defending champion Ateneo Tigresses rightward no hold of first place with a clinical 25-20, 25-21, 25-19 victory over Lycoum.

The Tigresses flustered a overwhelmed from in the match that last of one hour and nine minutes, hammering the Lady Pirates no-end on the way to their third straight victory.

"The Lady Pirates dropped to 0-2.

"They're starting to jell and play with a lot of discipline," said Adamson coach Dulce Stone, who earned some of her key players in the third set with the outcome already settled.

Adamson also drew a solid outing from guest player Charmaine Mendaño, who finished with nine points, including three service aces.

Cathy Barcelona had 10 points for the Lady Maroons, who committed 26 errors and absorbed their third straight loss and their 10th in a row since joining the league in the first conference.

The Lady Falcons will try to ride the momentum of their twin victories this week when they clash with the dangerous the Ateneo's University Lady Tamaraws tomorrow.

PHIL. Youngbuloodstock

Nomads-Kaya tiff kicks off RP's 1st pro football tilt

By Ramona S. Acosta

THE COUNTRY'S FIRST EVER PROFESSIONAL, corporate-sponsored football league kicks off at 2 p.m. today with an opening game featuring top squads Nomads FC against Kaya FC at the Nomad Sports Club in Alabville, Muntinlupa.

Nomads' team area (Pol) and James Youngbuloodstock take in the field for Nomads against a Kaya squad skippered by FP team captain Aly Borromeo in the maiden match of the United Football League (UFL) Cup.

Sixteen squads, including teams from the Armed Forces of the Philippines, clubs of corporations and schools, are vieing action in the three-month-long tournament organized by the Football Alliance and the Football Club Association.

UFOA president Christopher Hagedorn said the league is expected to address the need for the sport's development and to draw attention to the sport which he said is very popular across the globe but is often ignored locally.

"All of us here grow up playing some form of football and it is the second most-played sport in the country," said Hagedorn.

"In due time, the league will train our players in the parts where the World Cup isn't just a game but a goal."

FA head and former national player Randy Rotea said the intensity of the competition will define the country's first foray into the pro football.

"The UFL will elevate amateur football to a professional level," said Rotea. "Finally, the fans of the game will be given the right opportunity to develop their talents."

Javier Monsuor of LBC, major backer of the National Capital Region Football Association-sanctioned event, assured everything is in place to make the UFL's LBC Cup a success.

PINOY THREE-PEAT

Jan Rotolla and Ricky Sandoval, co-skippers of the Philippine-crewed Selma Rose (C) Calibre, hoist the second-winner's trophy awarded by Subic state official led by Minister of Tourism, Culture & Environment of Kalalo TB Denis Hontil Major after the Filipinos captured their third straight championship at the recent 6th Borneo International Sailing Challenge in Malaysia. Sailing unpredictable sailing conditions and a three-hour time handicap in two-race defending champions, the team ruled the BIC Class in the 128-mile Miri to Labuan Passage, finished second in the Labuan-to-Kuru Kinabalu Race and took three first place victories in Kota Kinabalu Bay. The Subic Bay Yacht Club-based crew quoted Borneo competition Sue Jacob-based sailboats Mel Magis and Quimodo. The rest of the PP crew are former national sailing team member Nestor Santos, veteran Australian navigator Simon Vivian, and Zedrik and Marcus Revilla of The Subic Lighthouse Marina/Resort.

Hao Chin Cup tablenet meet unfolds today

RICHARD GONZALES, TONI LEDESMA and other national team standouts open their bids for titles today in the 2009 Nestea Hao Chin Sr. Memorial Cup 9th National Interscholastic championship and International Invitationals which fits off at the Ateneo Table Tennis Training Center in Quezon City.

Sanctioned by the Table Tennis Association of the Philippines (Ttaap), the competition features 14 categories and the brightest players from the country's schools and universities.

Gonzales and Ledesma are among the nine's open singles, according to Ateneo athletic director Ricky Palou, also chair of the organizing committee.

St. Martin High Montessori, last year's overall winner, will try to duplicate that feat against tougher oppositions led by UP and Ateneo.

Titles at stake are the men's and women's school teams, boys's and girl's school team, men's and women's non-ranking events, boy's and girl's singles events and men's and women's open singles.

George Llanera, Contributor

Alabang ladies bag WGAP overall plum

ALABANG PULLED OFF A 10-POINT ROMP over sixth rival Cantabong in Group A to go with a Group C win and captured the overall championship of the 2009 WGAP (Women's Golf Association of the Philippines) circuit at Ita. Ilocos recently.

Lorna Tolentino and Pema Torres came up with 40-point outputs under the Modified Stableford system while Christine Hipp and Vilia Hume added a 39 and 38 points, respectively, as Alabang posted 157 to top the Premier class.

Cantabong settled for 147 from Maribel Lanuevo 40, Lina De Guzman's 38, Lucy Lauddelen's 35 and Vanessa Tramuth 34.

The Cangolf ladies, who came into the final leg just two points behind Alabang following a solid campaign at home, actually turned the overall lead with a victory in Class B where it beat Tagaytay Highlands, 153-142.

But the cargo proved short-lived as Alabang topped Group C by beating Sta. Elena, 146-142, at the close of the eight-leg series.

The six-point victory boosted Alabang's total to 737, three ahead of Cantabong, which closed out with five points for 39 overall.

Tagaytay Highlands, which finished second to Group B, placed third overall with 729 points, followed by Sta. Elena (550), Agusanon (518), Manila Southwoods (8), Forest Hills (8), Valley (8), Riviera (1) and Valley (2).

The other teams which competed were Manila Golf, Orchard, Navy and Wack Wack.

Sta. Cecilia Tan won the individual leg title in Class A with 41 points while Mely Loyola of Highlands (37) and Marisol Gallejos of Cantabong topped Class B and C, respectively.

Cangolf's Rory Barcelona took the overall individual title with 206 points with Antonnette Mavis Lauvel finishing second with 205.

Other Class A winners were Lourdes Ong, Bai Mendoza, Mildge Tandoc, Ana Acuna, Cristina Tecson, Ma. Carlos, Ge Garcia and Joyce Cuaso.

Editor Tedoro L. Molowdow Jr. • Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Cubias

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Burger King rips Smart Gilas

Arboleda punches Tiu fan

By Maong S. Castillo

IT WAS HARD TO DETERMINE FROM Burger King coach Yeng Guiao's body language how gratifying was the victory but after easy he talked gave his elusive energy.

"It's nice to win over Smart Gilas when it's silly young," Guiao said after a 108-105 victory by Burger King that spoiled the national team reunion' debut yesterday as a guest team in the 67C Philippine Cup eliminations at the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao.

"Most satisfying because there've beaten up for this game."

Guiao, of course, was talking of Japeth Aguilar, his former No. 1 choice with the Whoppers who turned his back on Burger King after being drafted and opted to play for the RP this past being handled by Serbian coach Rajko Toroman.

"I don't have anything to say about Japeth Aguilar," Guiao said. "I guess he's happy where he is and we are happy where we are."

Burger Hawaii scored 23 points and Tony Dyked added 20 as the Whoppers gave the national team prospects a sound beating even after losing veteran guard Wynne Arboleda late in the first half for sounding a courtside fan of former Gilas Cham Tiu.

Arboleda got into a scuffle with a certain Alain Katigbak as available after the Burger King quarterback blew his top over what he said was a relentless "booing assault" by Katigbak on him and his teammates.

"I'm sure I will be heavily fined and suspended," Arboleda told the Inquirer in Filipino while in the dugout. "But he (Katigbak) crossed the line and [one] should also have the responsibility of watching the games in an educated way.

"That line was different," Arboleda, who admitted at yesterday at least two punches, added. "What he was looking for was a fight. He was not there to cheer for his team."

Arboleda has been summoned to a 10:30 meeting by the Commissioner's Office. This is the third time in the last two tournaments that a fan has been attacked, with Alaska Aspirants Sta. Lucia fighting in the first incident followed by Danny Ildefonso of San Miguel.

JV Cantz led the Gilas national aspirants with 26 points, while Tiu added 21. Aguilar, in his second PBA game, was good for 18 points and six rebounds.

The scores

BURGER KING 108—Hawaii 23, David 19, Belga 11, Lanete 10, Yee 10, Lanuza 9, Yu 8, 7, Amar 6, Sharma 5, Abarrientos 3, Ahmad 2, Arboleda 0.

GILAS 105—Cantz 26, Tiu 21, Aguilar 18, Sotto 14, Ilao 12, Ildefonso 4, Barroca 4, Al Hussaini 2, Jiménez 2, Canaleja 2, Lanete 0

Quarters: 27-25, 54-48, 81-82, 108-105

MAC Belocura of Smart Gilas falls on Burger King's Wynne Arboleda after the latter committed a flagrant foul against him. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Angels try to stretch success vs Yankees

NEW YORK—THE LOS ANGELES ANGELS have had more success than any other American League team against the Yankees since 1996, but the visitors expect a tough fight in their American League Championship Series.

"It's been anything but easy for us," Angels manager Mike Scioscia told reporters on the eve of Friday's opener of their best-of-seven series. "They've been an incredible team."

The Angels have posted a 73-65 record against the Yankees since the "Bronx Bombers" began a mid-90s run of four World Series rides in five years, along with more further unsuccessful trips to the ALCSeries.

"I don't know if there's any shame or reason for it," Scioscia said of the Angels' success by combining speed, defense and skilled pitching to consolidate three bats.

"I don't think there's been any dominance, it's been good ballclubs that we've had playing against their ballclub."

This year Los Angeles had a 97-65 mark during the regular season, while the Yankees were a major league-best 103-59.

"But you can take all that and throw it out. Right now it's a different season, different encounter. We know we have our work cut out for us," the Los Angeles skipper said.

The Angels, who ousted the Yankees in the first round of playoffs in 2002 and 2005, and were one in the 2002 World Series, are using a slightly different formula this season.

"I think in the past we have been much more dependent on what we've created on the bases than I think we did this year," said Scioscia, whose team still stole 110 bases.

Scioscia said his team also hit better than in the past.

In an unusual twist, the Yankees have Matt Stairs batting third in their lineup after he led the Angels last year as a free agent—and the Angels have New York's former number three hitter Bobby Abreu in that spot in their order. Reuters

Realtors defang Tigers

From page A32

the Realtors didn't miss him as well.

Taking Miranda's place, Hayes hit 4-of-6 attempts from beyond the arc, had five assists and five steals and chided those signs of having a long layoff and just two weeks of practice with the Realtors.

Joseph "Yeo, new events Gabby Espinosa and the contributing Kelly Williams all contributed 14 points.

Espinosa, an acquisition from Red Bull assigned to fill the void left by Espinosa, also had 11 rebounds in 39 minutes of error-free basketball.

Pelliazo, who missed playing for the Philippine team because of a cyst blood disease last April, played 27 minutes and also had nine rebounds, an effort which did go unnoticed as far as Fortunato was concerned.

The score:

Hotspots

ESL 102B, 86—Pons 21, Isaias 16, Yee 15, Villero 14, Tio 11, Oreste 5, Alpalo 4, Lerma 3, Nuno 2, Ildefonso 2, Rhodes 2, Jones 0.

FOOD CHIX 91—Gregorio 31, Isaias 19, Espinosa 9, Dajao 8, Nino 5, Nanda 5, Morales 5, Ilao 4, Lab 4, Cabing 4, Serrano 0, Cruz 0

Quarters: 19-25, 43-43, 59-62, 86-91

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THE DODGERS' James Loney reaches home safely while Phillies catcher Carlos Ruiz forfeits with the ball during the eighth inning.

Hot-hitting Phillies trip Dodgers, grab 1-0 lead

LOS ANGELES—CARLOS RUIZ'S THREE-run homer highlighted a five-run fifth inning and Raul Ibanez added a three-run shot in the eighth as the Philadelphia Phillies beat the Dodgers, 8-6, on Thursday night to win the opener of the NL championship series.

Manny Ramirez slugged a two-run homer for the Dodgers, but he grounded out weakly with two runners on against a struggling Ryan Madson to end the eighth. Brad Lidge pitched the ninth for the save.

"It's like a prize fight, we just came up a little short," Dodgers manager Joe Torre said.

Lidge then worked around a single and a walk in the ninth, helped by a double play that made him the 3 for 3 to save (Ramirez this postseason...he grazed three saves against the Dodgers in last year's NLCS.

Lidge was perfect in save this last season when the Phillies won the World Series, but led the majors with 11 blown opportunities this year.

"The Dodgers are a great team. They came from behind a lot so you take everyone seriously," he said. "Honestly, for some reason I've really been locked in this postseason. I felt really good mechanically. I feel like myself. I feel pretty comfortable right now."

Hunter Pence dominated on both sides in a game that lasted four hours, two minutes. Blake highlighted a five-run fifth in the fifth and Ibanez homered in the eighth for an 8-4 lead.

Jimmy Loney also connected for the Dodgers. Ramirez, baseball's all-time postseason home run leader with 20, hit a two-run shot.

Los Angeles will start Vicente Padilla against Philadelphia's Pedro Martinez on Friday afternoon in Game 2.

Philadelphia's Cole Hamels fanned under pressure last October, earning NLCS and World Series most valuable player honors. But the left-hander hardly resembled the same pitcher in earning the victory, giving up eight hits and four runs in 5 1/3 innings.

It was his first outing since he left the ballpark in the division series against Colorado to be with his wife as she prepared to give birth.

At 25 years and 211 days, Clayton Kershaw was the youngest pitcher ever to start a Game 1 in a league championship series, and it showed.

The Dodgers left-hander was tagged for five runs in the fifth, when he set a LCS record for most wild pitches in an inning with three. He also tied the record for most wild pitches in a LCS game, shared by Tommy John and Juan Guzman. AP

BUSINESS

Edita Raul O. Marcelo • Assistant Edita Carrie S. Mariano

Remittances up 2.8% to $1.4B in Aug.

In first 8 months, $11.3B reached RP

By Michelle V. Remo

REMITTANCES CONTINUED TO GROW IN August, with household consumption also seen to pick up, supporting growth of the overall economy, monetary officials said.

In August, remittances amounted to $1.4 billion, up 2.8 percent from that of the same month last year, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported yesterday.

"Remittances from workers overseas continued to underpin the resilience of the economy, remaining a stable source of foreign exchange for the country," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said in a statement.

The August figure brought overall remittances in the first eight months of this year to $11.3 billion, up 3.7 percent year-on-year.

Remittances in the first eight months were mostly from Filipinos based in the United States, Canada, Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom, Japan, Singapore, United Arab Emirates, Italy and Germany.

The central bank earlier projected that remittances would register a flat growth this year. The BSP has since revised its forecast to an average growth of 4 percent, saying that the global turmoil had little bearing on the amount of money sent in by workers abroad.

"There had been layoffs in recession-stricken countries. But remittances still rose because newly deployed Filipinos continued to fill those jobs left by their predecessors who had lost their jobs.

According to the BSP, remittances may even grow faster in the last few months of the year, noting that workers tend to send more money to their families overseas.

It also said that, with the global economy now on its way to recovery, remittances could even surge in [illegible]

REMITTANCES B2

'Hot money' net inflow hits $47M

THE PHILIPPINES POSTED a net inflow of foreign portfolio investments in September due to a resurgence in investor sentiment.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said "hot money" registered a net inflow of $47 million in September, reversing the $440 million in net outflows recorded in the same month last year.

In the first nine months of the year, the country posted net hot money inflow of $229 million—a turnaround from the net outflow of $849 million in the same period last year.

HOT MONEY B2

IN THIS ISSUE
■ AGI, partner commit $1.6B in tourism investments /B2
■ Gov't debt hit P4.2T in July /B3

Lost corporate documents

WITH THE BANK LONE, THE frustrations substantially subsided and most investors bask in their bonus (or what's left of them), the victims of the recent calamities are slowly picking up the pieces of their lives.

Businesses that lost their stocks and equipment face serious problems. Their biggest headache is securing the money or credit line needed to jumpstart their operations.

Another problem is investors losing important corporate and economic records. Unless they have secure back-up systems, they literally have to start from scratch.

It's not easy recovering data from missing or water-soaked inventory lists, payroll sheets, sales invoices, payment receipts and the myriad of documents needed to run a business.

The retrieval process may be too tedious if the records were stored in computers as there are software programs that can undertake the task.

The question of how to reconstitute vital corporate documents that were lost or missing was the subject of a query by a company with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The company said that, due to changes in management and office transfers, its stock and transfer book and other corporate records were nowhere to be found.

Replacement

As a result, it had difficulty identifying its stockholders, their holdings and addresses. Neither were there records to the company's office or elsewhere that can help in the recovery of that critical data.

To solve the problem, the company thought of issuing a board resolution certifying all issued stock certificates and asking the stockholders to surrender their certificates within a certain period of time from the date of the publication of that resolution.

Those who respond to the call will be given new certificates, while the unsurrendered certificates will be treated as treasury shares, or company-owned shares.

The company sought clearance from the SEC for this action plan.

For starters, the SEC explained that corporate books and records were considered private documents and therefore covered by the rules of evidence in proving their contents.

This means that if the original records are lost, mislaid, destroyed, or otherwise unavailable, and can reasonably be proven to the satisfaction of the presiding officer, such fact may be established by any competent secondary evidence, such as, duplicate copies and oral testimony of witnesses, may be presented to prove the things or matters contained in those records.

Publication

The same principle applies to the reconstruction of the stock and transfer book.

A new book should be presented to the SEC for proper registration, accompanied by a sworn statement by responsible corporate officers stating the circumstances behind its loss.

To facilitate the reconstruction of its records, the SEC suggested the notification of the stockholders of the planned action through publication of a notice in a newspaper of general circulation.

They can be directed to "step forward and present the proper receipts or transfer of the shares in their respective names, requiring them to produce evidence of identity as well as their signatures for verification."

If in spite of the publication the identification process is unsuccessful, the SEC directed the company to continue to hold the shares in situations he their names.

On the issue of whether or not new certificates should be issued to the identified stockholders, the SEC said that is a matter addressed to the discretion of the board of directors.

The SEC gave the caveat though that "the stockholders should not be made to suffer the circumstances arising from the negligence of the corporation and/or its directors or officers."

Fiduciary

In other words, the stockholders should not be required to pay for the expenses or costs that may be incurred for the issuance of new certificates.

The company's, pursuant to trust, the shares of stockholders who cannot be located or identified as treasury shares were treated thusly.

The SEC said these shares might be entered in the corporate books in the name of the corporation as "trustee," which means it is holding them in a fiduciary capacity or for the benefit of their true owners.

As a fiduciary entrusted with the shares, the trustee is obliged to protect the interest of the beneficiary and not to allow his personal interest to conflict with that obligation.

The SEC stressed that the failure of the true owners to come out and claim ownership, even for a long period of time, "will not raise the presumption of ownership in the person named to be the trustee or trustee."

This means the shares of the unidentified stockholders cannot be treated as treasury shares, which can be appropriated and sold then to unrelated parties.

The prohibition rests on the principle that "a trustee should not profit from the handling of trust estates."

So how long should the company maintain the fiduciary relationship?

The SEC left it up to the unidentified stockholders until the company closes shop and the shares concerned are escheated (or forfeited in favor of the government) in accordance with the prescribed procedures.

For feedback, please write to rjpf-advice@inquirer.com.ph

AGI, partner commit $1.6B in tourism investments

By Doris C. Dumlao

TYCOON ANDREW TAN'S holding firm, Alliance Global Group Inc., is investing up to $1.6 billion with his new partner in six years in two integrated tourism developments—"Resort City" in Pasay and "Bay Harbor" at the Manila Bay reclamation area.

"We want to be the largest tourism player in the country," AGI president Kingson Sian said in a presentation during the company's stockholders' meeting in the newly opened Newport City tourism estate yesterday.

"We are very bullish about the tourism industry in Asia and there is no reason why the Philippines cannot be a major player in the industry," Sian said.

The 21-hectare Newport City is a joint venture between AGI subsidiary Travellers International Hotel Group Inc. and Genting Cruises Ltd., the world's third largest cruise line operator and part of the gaming behemoth group of Malaysia. The joint venture committed to invest P20 billion in this project.

Sian said Newport City would be positioned as the gateway to Philippine tourism owing to its proximity to the NAIA 3 terminal.

The tourism center in New port City, named Resorts World Manila (RWM), will feature a full array of entertainment facilities and services designed to attract domestic and international tourists.

Under the plan, RWM will have about 5,500 hotel rooms, including the recently opened Marriott Hotel and two other hotels under construction—Hilton Resort and Spa and Hampton Hotel.

There will also be a 1,000-seat Newport Performing Arts Theater, four high-end cinemas, luxury shopping arcade and a beer-centry retail mall, gaming area, food emporium, spas and dance clubs.

Newport City is expected to generate about 10,000 tourists, related jobs by 2011.

Travellers is conducting groundbreaking ceremonies for its second casino/entertainment complex within the 39-hectare Entertainment City Manila, called the "Bay Shore," which may include a theme park.

Sian said $1.6 billion in investment was the group's commitment to Philippine tourism and gaming corp.

Pacific Online profit up 85%

PACIFIC ONLINE SYSTEMS CORP. POSTED an 85 percent year-on-year increase in profit in the first nine months to P224 million on record-high lotto sales in Visayas and Mindanao, as well as some treasury gains.

Pacific Online is the exclusive online lottery system provider of Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office outside Luzon.

In a disclosure to the Small Exchange, Pacific Online said its core revenue went up by 39 percent to P781.3 million over a year ago.

The record lotto sales were aided by the Ultralotto roll-out of new terminals, the more aggressive distribution and sale of PCSO's instant "Scratch-IT" tickets nationwide and the expansion of retail centers by subsidiary Lucky Circle Corp. (LCC).

The "Scratch-IT" instant sweepstakes product lose has also contributed a total of P746 million to the PCSO charity fund in the first nine months.

LCC, which sells PCSO various product lines, has 180 outlets nationwide and expects to end up with a total of 130 this year. It also plans to open new branches in the coming years. Doris C. Dumlao

UBP raises ₱3.7B via debt note sale

UNION BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES HAS raised P3.701 billion from the sale of debt papers qualifying as tier 2 or supplementary capital.

The offering was closed on Wednesday with the notes priced at 7.375 percent or a spread of less than 100 basis points over the five-year benchmark.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday the bank said the amount raised would be used to strengthen its capital base and boost its capital adequacy ratio (CAR) ratios just seven to about 13 percent from the current 12.38 percent. The minimum required now is 10 percent. Banknet said UBP would have issued more than the offering and maximized the P5-billion bond ceiling approved by the central bank if it had agreed on a higher interest rate spread.

But due to the cautious market environment and a number of competing issues, the bank preferred a tight spread over meager coupon rate.

UBP's notes are due in 2019 with an option but not an obligation to redeem them on the fifth year. If the bank does not call on the notes by that time, it will pay a higher interest rate.

HK fund buys 5.9% of MPIC

INVESTMENT FUND INVESCO Hong Kong Ltd. has acquired a 5.9% percent stake in local industries holding firm Metro Pacific Investments Corp. for about P17 million.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, MPIC said the Hong Kong-based investor acquired 860,549 million out of about 9.465 billion of its total shares or 0.5% percent shares in September.

Investco, a fund management firm opening unit of Hong Kong in the last three decades, handles 30 retail funds, which are available to investors in Hong Kong through all major financial institutions.

It also manages assets for institutions, such as public funds and multilateral working capital.

With the investment in MPIC, Taiwan- joins Singapore-based Morgan Stanley Investment Co. and Los Angeles-based Templeton World Fund Inc. as among the institutional investors in the listed holding firm of Hong Kong-based First Pacific Co. Ltd. led by Manuel V. Pangilinan.

MPIC recently acquired P39 billion through a public offering of shares, considered the largest equity deal in the country since 2007.

Right after the capital-raising, MPIC acquired a 74.7 percent stake in power retailer Manila Electric Co. It bought the 13 percent stake worth P18.2 billion from affiliates and another 1.7 percent from the open market.

The sale of new shares effectively relaunched MPIC as a publicly listed company, boosting its public float while raising new money for expansion.

MPIC has major investments in water distribution through Maynilad Water Services Inc., Metro Pacific Tollways Inc. and in the country's three major hospitals.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

CURRENCIES

October 16, 2009 Currency	Unit	Core Equivalent	Value Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
Australian Dollar	AUD	1.000000	0.000000	46.4100
Bahrain	BHD	1.000000	0.000000	2.6500
Canadian Dollar	CAD	1.000000	0.000000	44.3100
Hong Kong	HKD	1.000000	0.000000	6.4900
Japanese Yen	JPY	1.000000	0.000000	0.4900
Kuwait	KWD	1.000000	0.000000	3.4600
Malaysia	MYR	1.000000	0.000000	13.0000
New Zealand	NZD	1.000000	0.000000	33.0000
Qatar	QAR	1.000000	0.000000	0.2700
Saudi Arabia	SAR	1.000000	0.000000	0.2700
Singapore	SGD	1.000000	0.000000	31.0000
South Korea	KRW	1.000000	0.000000	0.0400
Sweden	SEK	1.000000	0.000000	5.8000
Switzerland	CHF	1.000000	0.000000	42.5000
Taiwan	TWD	1.000000	0.000000	1.3000
United Arab Emirates	AED	1.000000	0.000000	0.2700
United Kingdom	GBP	1.000000	0.000000	74.0000
United States	USD	1.000000	0.000000	47.5000
Euro	EUR	1.000000	0.000000	69.0000

Gov't debt hit ₱4.2T in July

By Roxanne W. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT's debt stock amounted to P4.223 trillion as of end-July, down by P2.7 billion or 0.1 percent from end-June level, or three months on July, however, were 6.5 percent or P207.4 billion higher than the P3.966 trillion a year ago.

Based on the Bureau of Treasury's latest report on the government debt, 53 percent or P2.241 trillion of the total debt was borrowed from domestic lenders.

Local debt went down by 1.3 percent month-on-month from P2.271 trillion in June.

Some 45 percent or P1.982 trillion of the total outstanding debt was denominated in foreign currencies. This was 1.5 percent higher than the P1.851 trillion owed to foreign lenders in June.

The increase was attributed to the net P30 billion in net availment during the month and the appreciation of selected major currencies, which made foreign loans costlier by P2 billion. This was, however, partially offset by P8 billion in net appreciation of the peso against the dollar.

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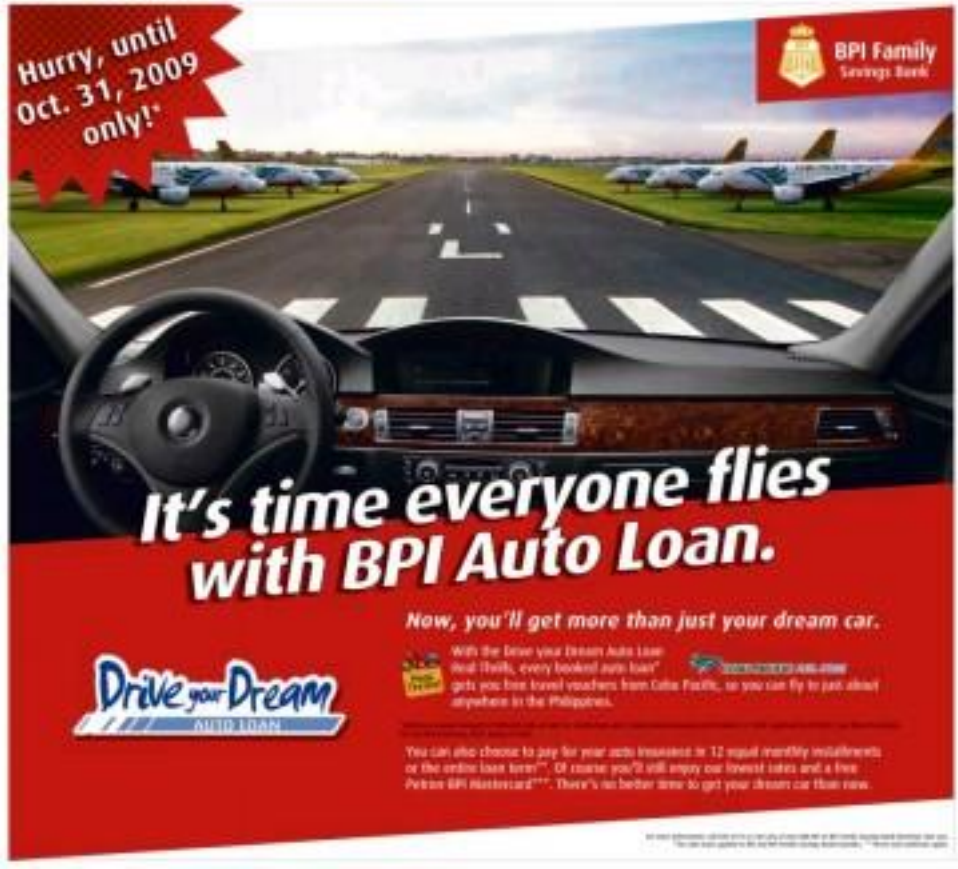

BUSINESS *Friday*

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Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Rupisa

Even in worst of times, great ideas can emerge

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

(Conclusion)

IN BUSINESS, AS IN HEALTH, AN ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. And that means being prepared for a crisis even before it strikes.

Julie Pratz, head of the Department of Entrepreneurship and academic director of the Entrepreneurship Center at IESE Business School, based in Barcelona, explains in this last installment of the e-mail interview with the Inquirer that it is much easier to forestall a crisis than deal with it.

This is why she recommends that company executives take a look at their operations, especially if success, to make sure the company is prepared to meet any challenge that lies ahead.

Pratz was recently in Manila for the formal launch of the 16,000 Women Business Training Program for underserved Filipina entrepreneurs, and the conference "Preparing for Recession Recovery: Challenges in Creating New Opportunities."

Question: What do you think are the worst things that entrepreneurs can do in times of crisis?

Pratz: Not to take advantage of it! This answer might sound surprising, but it should not be. Especially in such difficult times, entrepreneurs can take much quicker decisions and execute them faster than anybody else. I'm not saying life is easy for entrepreneurs in these times (because it's never easy), but with regard to personality, ability and agility, entrepreneurs are a privileged lot in that they know how to manage well in these kind of conditions and pursue new opportunities.

From a managerial perspective, I believe that paying too little attention to the financial aspects of the business in the warm-up time can die, because it jeopardizes the firm as a whole and may be a hindrance to adequately capturing growth opportunities that might open up to them. Therefore, a strong focus on working capital requirements and cash flow is very important.

A number of private is to raise money BEFORE you need it. Banks and investors provide money more easily to those who don't need it than to those that really need it urgently. I also recommend installing "safety nets" before a crisis happens (i.e., negotiate for a temporary financial bridging in advance from a large, good-rolled client who would help out in case money runs short.)

Dr. Julie Pratz of the IESE Business School based in Barcelona

Question: You also mentioned cooperate entrepreneurship as a strategy for growth? Could you explain what you mean?

Pratz: Corporate entrepreneurship is also called intrapreneurship. This is a strategy focused on generating growth. This not only means that additional growth results from acquiring another firm, but more important, by creating organic growth, that is, growth created by yourself such as developing new products, entering adjacent or new market segments, or expanding geographically into new country markets.

Moreover, business model changes can be a powerful tool to unleash further organic growth. Several recent global surveys show the increasing importance of such a growth strategy for CEOs.

Research has also indicated that organic growth is often more profitable and adds more value to a firm. In a study which focused on organic growth within large corporations, we found that "growth leaders" (people who led internal high growth initiatives) very much behaved like entrepreneurs rather than corporate managers.

In this sense, intrapreneurs can learn a lot from the behavior of entrepreneurs. And during a crisis, everybody can!

Question: What do you think are the most common mistakes entrepreneurs make, especially during the first two-or-three years?

Pratz: The biggest mistake in their entrepreneurs often underestimate the time it takes until a product is truly ready to be shipped to a client and the amount of money necessary to reach that point, as well as the time it takes to raise the money for the next up phase as well as expansion.

Another common problem is that new firms (especially tech-driven companies) often focus much more on what their technology or product can do instead of what the client really need. It's always more difficult to find a problem to a solution than offering a solution to an existing problem.

New ventures should also make sure that they bring direct client feedback as early as possible into the product development process. Changes and pursuit adaptations to the user are far cheaper then at the end.

Further problems come from underestimating the competition or switching costs of potential clients to a new product/technology. Being just a little better or a little different won't be enough to quickly capture a significant share of a market.

Problems arise also with regard to human resource issues. Even time-founder-entrepreneurs often find it difficult to live autonomy they found, even if the person doesn't seem to fit in the firm. Put nevertheless CEOs say that they find someone too early; they mostly complained that they did it way too late.

This problem is worsened and sensitive if there is a match among the co-founders of a firm. Rapid growth can also lead to significant problems where inexperienced people are not well equipped to take leadership positions and conflicts arise. Founders often encounter problems delegating and sharing responsibility with a larger group.

'A strong focus on working capital requirements and cash flow is very important'

Word of mouth

By Roger Pe
Correr Bureau

WHAT IS MORE CREDIBLE THAN endorsements made by close friends? Where do you turn, the brand you just saw on TV or neighbors who have tried and tested another brand to validate they all swear by?

If a picture can paint a thousand words, the mouth can unleash "buzz" that can generate momentum.

Experts say "word-of-mouth" is the best form of advertising, and nothing can beat its effectiveness. Even the most experienced global advertising network execs say its immense power.

What exactly is word-of-mouth?

Simply put, it is the buzz created based on one's actual experience that eventually snowballs into a repetition of branding recall. It could cause a branding collapse or become the most expensive advertising produced.

Word-of-mouth is best illustrated by this most recent TV commercial for a condiment.

In a quaint, remote village, a damsel becomes the talk-of-the-town, but only in the beautiful, but the kind the cooks taste delicious. The whole town went nuts over her cooking. Wags and eavesdroppers try to uncover her culinary secret, believing that there was something to the sauce she's using.

Brand benefits

Do you have something in your product or advertising that can make people open their mouth and spread the gospel? Is there something in your brand that is worth recommending to your friends? Is there something new in what you're selling that may turn into conversation piece?

Will people talk about it in coffee shops, offices, schools or wherever they may get a chance to talk? Remarkable brand benefits and innovative advertising can pierce through the duties and positive feedback will easily pass on like contagion.

Anything less and you suffer the ignominy of being ignored.

Brands that create buzz

The new campaign of Meralco on how to save electricity is being talked about because it is different from the usual.

A caterpillar, two lovebirds and a firefly are used to make an interesting ad to remind consumers on how to save on electricity. It probably wasn't just talked about but the creative used the same old boring formula. Upbeat pseudo and in a way that we've seen in the past.

A fast-food restaurant offering hot, clean, affordable steak will surely get the nerve of a "backache" looking for good value through use of ordinary conversation. After one correct, the information runs multiply getting the message could become the message comes from a trusted, unbiased source. The premise of sharing information between two parties can also be separated via SMS, e-mail, chat, social conversations, other forms of online instant messaging or whenever people get a chance to share each other's opinions.

In the movie "Fifty Shades," Tom Cruise stars Stephan Weyburn a mass-lover secretary back in mid-1980s. In his Brand Story website, Bob Marsh, former creative director at Publicis Dialog and now VP at LaguPublicis, talks about how he once ran on his Stephan Weyburn and is broke in hell. The eyeglass store where he bought it wouldn't take it back so he uses it directly in Stephan with a new saying: "This broke, please fix."

He had no expectations of ever hearing from the company and started looking for new glasses. Two months later, he received a new pair of Ray-Bans in the mail. He was thrilled and became a huge fan of Ray-Ban. 22 years later he was still telling the story.

Through word-of-mouth, a good

"Word-of-mouth" is the best form of advertising.

Brand experts swear by the power of 'word-of-mouth' advertising

can can enjoy advertising mileage long before the prospective buyer gets to see or try the brand. Validated by recommendation from friends, it is bound to meet or even surpass sales targets.

Word-of-mouth can best branch outs high frequency media. This can be said in the case of hotels and other establishments that offer personalized service and hospitality. More often than not, preference for friends' endorsements can be sealed instantly because people oftentimes trust friends for their testimonies.

Highly effective

Word-of-mouth can be said as doing half the battle of convincing consumers because they come from real experiences and credible sources. In his Marketing Profs website, Ted Ritchie, creative director of Design Force in the US and who has written articles for Adweek and Brandweek, mentions that word-of-mouth effectiveness is 70 percent, higher than newspaper advertising, magazines, television, radio and internet advertising.

Here is something for your business and give it a boost?

Here are recommendations from Start Up Nation to help you build word-of-mouth viral marketing success:

- Keep it simple. The more complicated your messages are, the harder they can survive being passed via word-of-mouth.
- Be specific. Don't be generic. Define your category. Example: "The Mineral Water with 500 mg Vitamin C."
- Make your story different to make it worth repeating.
- Back up your recommendations with success stories from real people.
- Provide people with simple ways to make them inquire about you and what you offer.
- Put experts on your side. Encourage them to spread what's good about your brand.
- Ask your sales people (in retail), recommendations and testimonials and repeat the cycle.

MARKETING Rx
Dr. Ned Roberts & Judy Roberts

Market predictions

FOR THIS WEEK'S COLUMN, WE THANK Josiah Go, marketing teacher and guru, for allowing us to publish his 22 fearless market predictions after Tropical Storm "Ondoy" (and Dipong).

This was originally posted on Josiah's Facebook account.

Here we go:

Random prediction No. 1:

Expect a metastasis of consumer behavior weeks after the Ondoy devastation—what are considered clumsy and materialistic will give way to back-to-basic products and services. Materialistic will turn from a big consumption culture to **Depression Dudley.** In-between, a new standard may emerge. Watch for it!

Random prediction No. 2:

Consumer attitudes will change after the **presidential election next year. The new president** will be one who will be able to convince the country's business and **"politicians** feelings of many people now. The power-loving politicians will use the ballots to show their sentiments. **Expect foreign exchange to appreciate after!**

Random prediction No. 3:

Mass exodus of people and businesses traumatized by Ondoy to their new provinces/land will alter prices of real estate significantly.

This will force many local governments to raise threats to public health and safety more seriously as people and businesses will demand full accountability on their physical **movement.**

New market spaces will emerge!

Random prediction No. 4:

Marketing tools will be victorious of many marketers who hope accepting promises year after year, consumers disturbed by Ondoy will feel like a second time victim when they will get nothing due to "technicality"

There will be power shift in favor of customer-centric factory who will create new **market space equivalent** to an "insurance evaluation center" Now one realize will emerge!

Random prediction No. 5:

There will be more people attending museum, at least temporarily. The expat behavior, however, will be a defining moment for churches to either turn the unchurched or dechurched depending on their product, people and programs.

Hey God bless the priests and the church workers and give them wisdom to retain new people attracted to them again.

Random prediction No. 6:

Sales of popular candles and other comfort foods will rise as people will find new ways and new symbols to cope with the Ondoy tragedy.

Random prediction No. 7:

A "family" mood will again be a ritual among people who genuinely care and sensitive each other, not just to satisfy hunger. The meaning **of family will include those who gave big help** in times of crisis. Expect more disabled family mood after the Ondoy crisis in every subdivision and **subdivisions are born!**

Random prediction No. 8:

Consumers will be more careful when buying products as a culture of true payroll at the moment. It will affect how people interact with one another. Trust will dominate by influence purchase behavior in the coming days!

Random prediction No. 9:

People will float new meaning in life not with things but with knowledge as they try to understand what is happening in their lives.

Random prediction No. 10:

Sales of bottled plastic products will be affected in the months and years to come. The same products being consumed by victims of Ondoy are the same cause of ecological problems. Did you notice the empty plastics bottles of the trash floating during the Ondoy flood?

Random prediction No. 11:

Sales of canned products will make a big come back and challenge fresh produce as consumers will reposition the symbol of canned product as time and versatile friend.

Random prediction No. 12:

People will give priority to health and safety products like home water purifiers as an option to boiling, alarm systems to detect floods, home solar energy to counter light, shower filters to remove water contaminants, and even home/car disaster detox device as a way to control excesses in food and liquor intake. Gross production increases that can change consumer preferences will be witnessed.

Thanks for your comments and questions. Keep emailing them to drnedmarketing@gmail.com or marketingrx@yahoo.com or text us at 0918.3386112. Our fee for this and next week's column will go to Operation Blessing's medical mission for Tropical Storm Ondoy and Typhoon victims. Please continue supporting relief efforts.

Asia shares hit 14-month highs; dollar slides

HONG KONG—ASIAN SHARES HOVE TO 14-month highs yesterday after upbeat US retail sales and earnings reports prompted a shift to riskier assets, pushing the US dollar to a 14-month low and prompting Asian governments to step in to curb currency strength.

European stocks were up 0.4 percent shortly after opening, while shares rose earlier hit an 14-month high of $1.4861, as the US dollar slid to fresh 14-month lows against a basket of currencies amid rising risk appetites.

Shares in Japan jumped nearly 2 percent, helped by gains in tech shares and other exporters who might benefit from rising US demand.

Stocks in the rest of Asia firmed to their highest levels since last August.

Positive retail sales and earnings data from the United States—including from Intel Corp. and JP Morgan Chase & Co.—which had pushed the Dow Jones above 10,000 points on Wednesday for the first time in a year—set the scene for the Asian rally.

Growing confidence that the United States can fuel a global economic recovery encouraged investors to buy higher-yielding currencies, including the Australian and New Zealand dollars, which were additionally boosted by rising expectations for interest rate hikes.

The MSCI index of Asia Pacific stocks rocked outside Japan rose 1 percent to 413.34, its highest level since August last year.

The Thomson Reuters index of regional shares was up 0.3 percent.

Thailand missed out on the Asian share rally as its benchmark index climbed down 1 percent in a second day of heavy foreign selling on concern over the long-ill Thailand's health, despite official comments that he was improving.

Still, Thai stocks have rallied more than 50 percent this year.

Tokyo's Nikkei average rose 1.6 percent to 10,228.65, helped by auto-maker Honda Motor Co., which gained 1.4 percent and Sony Corp., which leapt 2.6 percent.

Shares in Hong Kong were up 0.9 percent and those in Shanghai increased 0.1 percent.

China drawn speculation that the country's accelerating economic rebound would evolve strong upward pressure on the yuan, saying soo-way ben on China's currency were diminishing. Reuters

Crude oil nears $76 on growth prospects

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Price controls: Blessing or curse?

By Ernesto M. Christian

LAST OCT. 13, AGRICULTURE SECretary Arthur Yap said he would not control the price of vegetables. At the same time, he lowered price controls on rice/basic necessities, such as sugar and eggs. Why the difference? Is price control a blessing or a curse?

Price Act

When I was (ET) undersecretary I was part of a team that helped formulate the Price Act (R.A. 7581) promulgated on June 15, 1992.

Section 2 of this law states: "It is the policy of the state to ensure the availability of basic necessities and prime commodities at reasonable prices at all times, without denying legitimate business a fair return of investment." We note that business is given the opportunity to have a fair return, or else the supply of good may just disappear.

The Price Act offers two options. The first is to control the supply of acts of price manipulation, such as hoarding and profiteering. The second is to impose economic or emergency price control, especially during calamities.

During a state of calamity, the law stipulates that: "Prices of basic necessities within an area shall automatically be frozen at their prevailing prices or based under economic price control." This automatic feature applies only to basic necessities defined in the law, including but not limited to rice, corn, bread, fish, meat, canned fish, coffee and sugar.

However, for prime commodities defined in the law including cement, coffee, garlic, school supplies, onions and steel rebar, price control is not automatic. It is expected that the DOF will first impose a price ceiling upon the recommendations of the implementing agencies or the Price Coordinating Council (PCC).

This differentiation is needed. Basic necessities, as one should be well aware, thus, economic. For prime commodities, time is given to the implementing agency or PCC to recommend the appropriate actions.

Since 1986, only the option of economic price control on basic necessities has been used. For prime commodities, the option used to catch profiteers was not price control but the Price Tag Law, which is substantially incorporated in the Price Act.

Blessing or curse

If properly implemented, price control can indeed be a blessing. It punishes profiteers who take advantage of scarcities, especially during a calamity. It also favors retailers from unjustly incriminating their prices because of the penalties imposed.

On the other hand, if the price ceiling is made too low, the retailer would rather not sell the product instead of losing money. The result is result worse. There would simply be no supply. In fact, therefore, it depends on determining the correct price ceiling.

Over the last few days, there have been complaints about the fairness of price ceilings for some agricultural and industrial goods. It was said that these ceilings were determined through the monitoring done by government personnel as the average price for the last three months.

Determining price ceilings

However, aside from the issue of whether the monitoring was properly done, the Price Act identifies that "average price" method as only one of three other price determination factors that "may be taken in consideration." The supply available in the market; the cost of the producer, manufacturer, distributor or seller ... and such other factors or conditions, which will aid in arriving at a just and reasonable price ceiling."

Because of the perceived urgency of imposing price ceiling on prime commodities, the required public hearings and dialogues with the private sector required in the Price Act's Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRRs) were not sufficiently done.

Therefore, some price ceilings turned out to be unreasonable, such as is purchase retail price ceiling, which was lower than its ex-plant price. On a product's price ceiling in the city made compulsory for a factory unreasonably, when transport costs are obviously different.

We commend those government agencies working to remove these price ceilings. We also support the announcement law workers that price control will no longer be implemented in the Visayas and Mindanao, where there is no serious calamity.

Price Tag Law

We recommend the supplementary measure of strict Price Tag Law implementation all over the country. This requires retailers to put price tags on all their products. This way, those who illegally overcharge high prices can be charged with profiteering, using a given suggested retail price but for a given area as a point of comparison. This also empowers the consumer to choose the most reasonable offer, which is a built-in market mechanism for retailers to lower their prices as they compete for the consumer's peso.

Given the spirit of the Price Act, we believe Secretary Yap used good judgment in supporting price control for sugar and eggs, but not for vegetables. The current can only be for either a blessing or a curse. But we should also implement the Price Tag Law, which is most often a blessing, and a curse only to profiteers.

The author is chair of Agri-watch, former secretary for presidential flagship projects and projects, and former undersecretary for agriculture, and trade and industry. for inquiries and suggestions, e-mail agriwatch@ymail.com or telefax (632) 8122172.)

COMMENTARY

Awarding of 12 hydro plant deals set

By Ally R. Ratio

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY will soon award 12 service contracts for hydro power development projects, seven of which were applied for by Lopez-led First Gen Hydropower Corp.

Data from the DOE showed that First Gen Hydropower plans to put up in Batangas and Aguasan province seven hydro power projects with a combined capacity of 98 megawatts.

Its applications are currently under review.

Should First Gen pursue the projects, investments in these ventures may reach as much as $245 million or about P11.27 billion.

This is based on the general rule that a costs about $2.5 million to produce a megawatt of power from hydro resources.

Specifically, First Gen plans to put up the 30-MW Pagsanjan Hydro project in Alaminos, Aguasan del Sur and the 14-MW Caballasan River project in Caballasan, Aguasan del Norte.

The company also targets to put up its makiliran the 9-MW Dalakonan River project in Barangay and Libtong, 20-MW Tagulaw River project in Impasugong and Sumilao, 9-MW Cagayan River 1 project in Talakag and 10-MW Cagayan River 2 project in Talakag.

Meanwhile, the DOE is also considering awarding a service contract to Sarawak Technologies Corp., which plans to put up a 6.4-MW Bani Irrigation Discharge project in Bani, Consuelo Sur.

Another firm, Sinohydro, is interested in four service contract applications in Abra, Ifugao and Kalinga.

Al Garcia has a 1-MW 40-foot River project in Tabuan Sur, Tubo, Abra.

The company also has a 1-MW Ambayan Creek project in Eastern Barangay Sagada; 7-MW Chaplet-Ap Creek project in Barangay Gipsap and Lizan, Kabuchin Barlig; and another 1-MW Sandaogan project in Poblacion, Sadanga, all in Mt. Province.

'Hot money' ...

From page B1

Since inflow of foreign portfolio investments in the first nine months amounted to $4.7 billion, while gross outflow reached $4.46 billion, the BSP reported.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said investment opportunities in overseas markets may result as much as $200 million or about P11.27 billion.

"It could emerging markets like the Philippines would likely come a huge chunk of the foreign investment pie because of their perceived resiliency in the face of a global turmoil that shows several industrialized nations into recession.

Earlier, the BSP projected an inflow of hot money worth $600 million for the entire year. Latest is revised its forecast to a net inflow of $0 billion. Michelle F. Remo

Remittances ...

From page B1

the months ahead.

"In recent developments point to improving global economic conditions, is more favorable outlook for remittances through end 2009 is anticipated," Tetangco said.

He said agreements forged by the government with labor agencies to other countries also helped sustain the rise in deployment of Filipinos abroad. While countries in recession were laying off workers, abundant labor markets were demanding more Filipino workers.

Cash transfers from over nine million Filipinos working abroad are equivalent to nearly 10 percent of the country's economic output. With reports from AFP

Shares close higher

From page B1

rally as well," said Nestor Aguilla of DA Market Investors.

"Nine months after the threat of a great depression, investors are seeing a powerful recovery. There is a sight of relief," he said. AFP

Top traded Energy Development Corp. gained 2.08 percent to P6.90 while property titan Megaworld Corp. rose 3.61 percent to P1.72.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. added 0.77 percent to P2,618. AFP

APOLOGY

MEGA IDEAL CYCLE CORPORATION, with principal address at 135 Magsaysay Ext. Dela Faustina Subdivision, San Bartolome, Novaliches, Quezon City and **HI TECH CYCLE SUPPLY**, with principal address at 120 Magallanes Street, Legaspi City, Albay, hereby offer their profound apology **MITSUKOSHI MOTORS PHILS., INC.**, for having engaged in selling **MK MAKOTO** spare parts and brake shoes for motorcycles without its consent.

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NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Corazon Layon Regional Office
Tacloban City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID (RE-PUBLICATION)
Lease of Trucks and Service Vehicles
Project Reference No.: 2009-09-RAC-VO-09-01

The National Food Authority (NFA), Central Luzon Regional Office, Cabanatuan City, through its Corporate Operating Budget for CY 2009 intends to apply the sum of Fifteen Million Two Hundred Sixty Thousand Pesos Only (P 15,260,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to purchase, under the Contract for the Lease of Trucks and Service Vehicles, the items described in procurement specifications in the attached price schedule of NFA Region III from November to December 2009.

The National Food Authority (NFA) invites bids from Eligible Bidders for the lease of trucks and service vehicles, broken or various lots as follows:

Lot#	Province	Type of Trucks/ Service Vehicle	Minimum Capacity Unit	Min. No. of Units Required	Rate/Day	ABC
I	Aurora	6 Wheeler Cargo Van	400 Bags/10 Ton 1 Tonner	1 1	₱5,000.00 ₱3,000.00	₱704,000.00
II	Bataan	6 Wheeler Cargo Van	400 Bags 1 Tonner	1 1	₱5,000.00 ₱3,000.00	₱704,000.00
III	Bulacan	10 Wheeler 6 Wheeler Cargo Van	600 Bags 400 Bags 1 Tonner	1 1 1	₱6,500.00 ₱5,000.00 ₱3,000.00	₱1,004,000.00
IV	Pampanga	10 Wheeler 6 Wheeler Cargo Van	600 Bags 400 Bags 1 Tonner	2 1 1	₱6,500.00 ₱5,000.00 ₱3,000.00	₱1,408,000.00
V	Nueva Ecija	10 Wheeler 6 Wheeler Cargo Van	600 Bags 400 Bags 1 Tonner	1 1 1	₱6,500.00 ₱5,000.00 ₱3,000.00	₱1,004,000.00
VI	Tarlac	6 Wheeler Cargo Van	400 Bags 1 Tonner	1 1	₱5,000.00 ₱3,000.00	₱704,000.00
		Total		15		₱5,280,000.00

The Authorized total cost of Lot I (25% of the total maximum number of trucks) The estimated Fund required for lease is 25 of Thousand (5 lot) lot.

The prospective contractor may bid for one or all lots, upon payment of a non-refundable application/bidding fee of P 1,000.00 and the complete submission of receipt of the following requirements:

1. Sworn statement that the prospective bidder/contractor is not being blacklisted for the last three (3) years from the effectivity date of legal personality with experience in **garbage (or legal) cargo** delivering services within the last 5 years;
2. Latest Certificate of Registration Certificate issued by SEC or Partnership or Cooperative;
3. Latest Certificate of Registration Certificate issued by BIR as Taxpayer or Cooperative.

Eligibility criteria includes, among others that the value of the prospective bidder's largest single contract adjusted to current prices using the consistent consumer price index, completed within the immediate years prior similar to the contract in detail, must be **at least fifty percent (50%) of the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) for each lot**

All prospective bidders found eligible shall be invited for the bidding which shall be conducted by the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) of the NFA Region III in accordance with RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The bidding activities will be conducted at the NFA-CLRO, Cabanatuan City according to the following schedule:

Activities	Date/Time
1. Issuance of Application and Bid Documents	October 19-23, 2009
2. Pre-bidding Conference	October 21, 2009, 10:00AM
3. Submission and Opening of Bids	November 6, 2009, 10:00AM

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the National Food Authority, Region III and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below:

Name of Office: **National Food Authority**
Name of Officer: **ANGEL D. IMPERIAL, JR.**
Address: **Barangka Highway, Cabanatuan City**
Tel. No. 044-600-2525/044-600-1783
Fax No. 044-600-2501

The National Food Authority, Region III reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to waive any defects or informalities therein/thereon, or to reject/cancel the bidding process at any time prior to contract award, without incurring any liability to the affected bidder(s) and to declare failure of bidding.

Date: **ANGEL D. IMPERIAL, JR.**
Regional Manager
BAC Chairperson

PROPERTY

Editor Cesar D. Manganaan

6 lessons typhoons imparted on developers

By Tessa R. Salazar

IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE two storms that hit the Luzon area in a span of one week, billions of pesos worth of property were damaged or completely destroyed. Now a storm of finger pointing has begun.

If there's a bright side to this tragedy, it's that "Ondoy" and "Pepeng" have smoothed a current of information about this big island we live in and the ever-changing climate-molding around us—information that would prove invaluable to the rebuilding and reconstruction efforts of the governments and private sectors.

It's time to let the people—the buyers, builders and sellers—know what works and what doesn't, during extreme climate events. Inquirer Property asked some of the industry players what valuable lessons were learned from the recent catastrophes.

1 **A graduated map should be drawn.** This map should be pro-indicated by the "real developer," which is the government. "The government is the one who guides everyone where and what to develop. There has to be a general plan and the developers merely conform to it. If the local governments says yes, this is suitable for development, then currently we go ahead and develop. It all depends on government, or leadership," said Ed Alonzo, Subdivision and Housing Developers Association chair, in a phone interview.

He added that the hazard map has been a little "messed" since the Cherry Hills tragedy.

2 **Metro Manila is already overpopulated.** It took two supertyphoons to drive home a point that should have been obvious by now. But developers are not scientists or geologists, Alonzo reasoned. "We are there to fill in the gap, which is housing," he added. "The problem with Metro Manila is that there is a sudden overpopulation over the past decade. Definitely the infrastructure cannot cope with the demand of the people to live and work in Metro Manila.

"If we are now to map (Metro Manila) and consider these areas as swamp areas, and then look at our geohazard map, then practically the entire metropolis is not supposed to be developed."

3 **Retain the "facilitation emulators" to accommodate a more violent cycle of weather disturbances,** Alonzo said. He added that these standards need to be set as quickly as possible in the light of the Philippines being in an active weather system now.

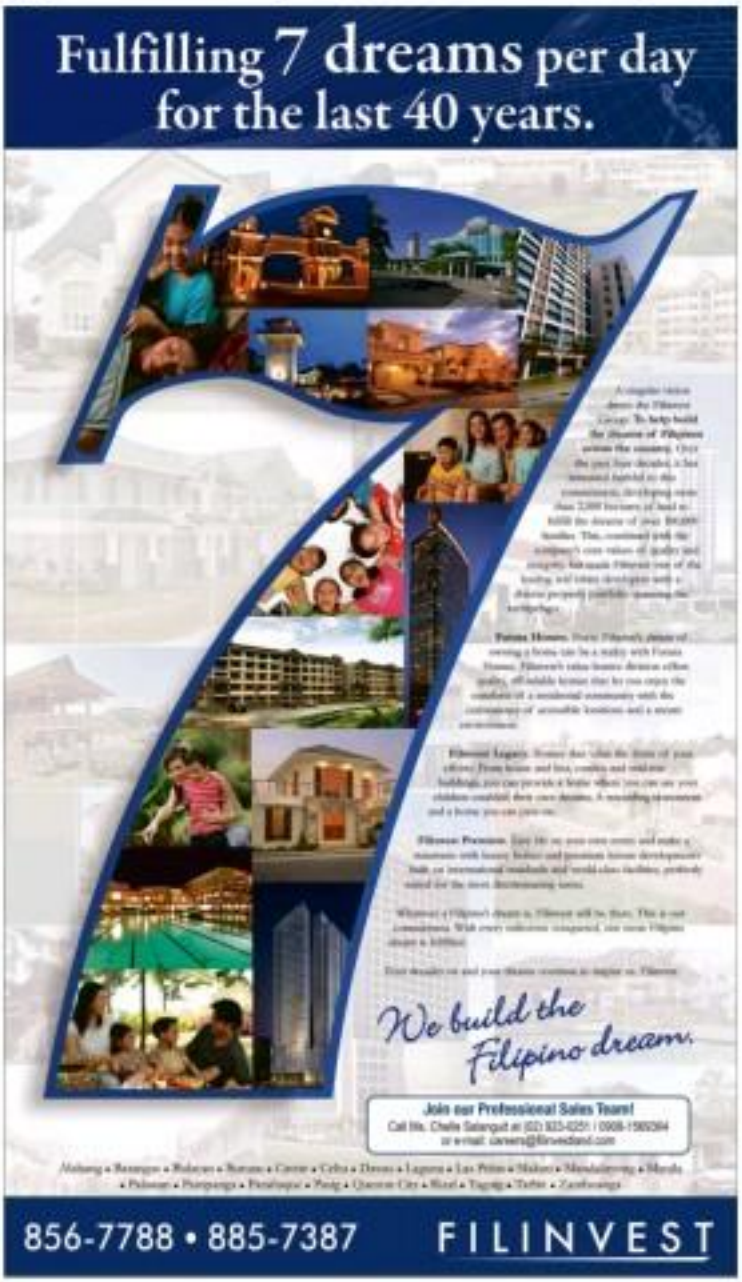
4 **The garbage has to go.** The city's garbage magnifies the extent of the damage of nature's wrath.

5 **Flood studies take decades, and it's a prerequisite to development.** Filinvest Land claims, in its "How to Build Against the Forces of Nature" release sent to Inquirer Property that it has conducted a multidecade flood study for each of its developments to study the possible progression of floodwaters in an area through the years. As a result, its developments have up to 2 meters of engineered fill to keep the flood from entering. It also constructs flood-lowering project reducing measures that is tested for every 12 inches of soil, eliminating the possibility of landslides.

"We also have detention ponds against flooding and downstream erosion by releasing water for a limited period of time. This is to manage excess run-off by allowing large amounts of water to enter but limits the outflow to protect the structures and not to cause damages downstream," said Elks Feranil, project director of Alveo Land.

"Celadon Manila and Amaia Place, our existing developments in flood-susceptible areas of Manila and Pasig, have proven to be (under-)good; our future developments will do even more in the interest of safety," he claimed.

6 **There have been stronger typhoons in the past. There will be.** Even stronger ones in the future. That is why developers such as Alveo Land continue to conduct wind tunnel tests of **their high-rise developments based on the** wind forces of past super typhoons.



SCIENCE/HEALTH

Editor Cesar D. Mangosing

Blood clot a serious concern

By Charles E. Bahar

EACH AND EVERY one of us has experienced some form of blood clotting at some point in our lives.

We usually observe this whenever we cut or bruise ourselves—the seemingly blood remold eventually "hardens," forming clumps that in time, stops the bleeding (although it depends on how big or how deep the wound is).

This is part of the body's natural mechanism to seal the damaged blood vessel and to prevent more blood from leaking out.

However, blood clotting could also happen internally and this is one occurrence that makes a lot of doctors more worried.

"There are many reasons these abnormal clots form and usually they dissolve on their own without causing any problems. However, there are also times when they could impede blood flow, which could result in tissue death. Even worse, the clot could break off, travel through the blood stream, and lodge in an artery near a similar organ that could cause life-threatening conditions," explained Dr. Serena Tiansay, a family physician.

If the clot gets lodged in the lungs, it could cause pulmonary embolism, which can lead to the death of lung tissue in the area (making blood and oxygen supply).

Blood clots in the heart arteries could cause heart attacks, angina and other problems while the one that forms within an artery of the brain, could cause a thrombotic stroke.

To prevent such from ever happening, doctors usually prescribe their high-risk patients with blood thinner (also called an anticoagulant).

This is especially important for people who have suffered a first stroke, as they have an increased risk of suffering a second one.

Side effects

But not everyone could take blood thinners as this could cause internal bleeding, abnormal and sometimes profuse bleeding inside the eye, and in the intestines, stomach and intestinal irritation, indigestion, nausea and vomiting.

This is why researchers have also looked for other sources, lesser-evil ones.

Medicinal plants have been the focus of many of these past and recent studies considering they contain a substance that acts similarly to rice drug and yet has less serious or less severe side effects.

One of these recently targeted plants includes Curcuma longa (Ayong dilaw) whose medicinal extract called curcumin has been found to prevent the formation of dangerous blood clots by having ability to lessen the levels of fibrinogen, the protein responsible in bringing blood clots in the body.

The action of curcumin is significant more studies have found that high fibrinogen levels are considered a more dangerous risk factor for heart attack and stroke than high cholesterol.

As a result, one health food supplement manufacturer was able to isolate curcumin and make it a key ingredient of Curcumin capsule that is now being suggested for adults with a high chance of developing the dangerous clot.

Because said the food supplement could be an effective preventive maintenance (a 09155650510 hotline was opened for inquiries) since a clot occurring internally is not readily detected, a fact that is supported by one study that found almost 50 to 58 percent of individuals are not able to experience symptoms of having a blood clot embedded in one of their major deep veins whether they are located in the lower legs, thighs, or pelvis.

"It can is not painful and slightest, he/she may soon find himself/herself in serious health trouble," the doctor extended.

THE ENCAPSULATED extracts of 'Curcuma longa' may help patients at risk of developing clots

The Dead Sea heals

MEDICAL FILES

Rafael Castillo, M.D.

JERICHO, WESTBANK (PALESTINIAN TERRITORY)—We've heard and read a lot of the healing properties of the Dead Sea, something which dates back to ancient times. Its water and mud are supposed to heal and beautify. The ancient Romans and Jews built bathhouses on the banks of the Dead Sea utilizing its water and mud.

King Herod himself was said to have frequently visited the Dead Sea's hot springs and found it not only curative of his physical ailments but soothing as well for his frayed nerves. The beautiful Queen Cleopatra was also one of the beneficiaries of the effects of the Dead Sea's minerals on the human skin, and used the salts and mud from the Dead Sea to maintain her youthful beauty. Queen of Sheba likewise were frequent bathers in the Dead Sea.

The Dead Sea is a strangely hypersaity body of water around 76 km long, 17 km wide, 1,050 sq km and 365 meters deep, according to our tour guide. It is surrounded by Israel, the Westbank and Jordan; it's greatest claim to fame is that it is the lowest land on earth at 400 meters (1,300 feet) below sea level.

It's called the Dead Sea because no fish or anything living could live in it due to its extremely salty and mineral content. However, the positive combination of the minerals and salts necessary for its healing properties. It's quite paradoxical that a sea (it's actually a lake), wherein no aquatic creatures can thrive, can be a source of good health and beauty.

The salinity of the Dead Sea reaches a concentration of approximately 340 grams per liter, which is 10 times more concentrated than the Mediterranean Sea or any other sea. Add to it the high mineral content and you can imagine the high buoyancy of the waters. Even if one does not know how to swim, one can float on it effortlessly. You see many people floating on their backs like they're lying on invisible mattresses. We saw one reading a book—if it's by reading a newspaper as he floated.

Ailments that could be cured

The list of ailments regular bathing in the Dead Sea could cure is long. Among those diseases are all forms of allergies from eczema to bronchial asthma, arthritis of any type, muscular and joint aches, various forms of metabolic disorders, psychological and stress-related disturbances including chronic fatigue syndrome and insomnia.

I must admit that when our tour guide eagerly narrated the health benefits of the Dead Sea, I thought it was too good to be true. I was having my bouts of allergic rhinitis at that time, so I thought I made a good case to find out if it was really as good as it was reported to be. Before going to the sea, we joined a group of elderly foreigners in covering their parts of our bodies with mud from a pond by the shore. I felt like we were cavemen straddling in the mud. And as we emerged from the mud-pond, we looked like lovable creatures from deep under, walking slowly on the slippery road to the sea.

Like a giant spa

It was quite an experience. The Dead Sea is like a giant spa. The water is warm and it's like you're mixed a gallon of olive oil in your bath tub. The effortless floating really gives one a feeling of complete relaxation and tranquility. It makes one feel like no cares or worries are too heavy for the water to carry. The oily sensation also gives one a soothing feeling. One's skin and hair feel soft and frequent bathers say this lasts for several days after.

The only side effect I could think of in bathing in the Dead Sea is that you can't swim in it with your eyes open. It really hurts when the water gets into your eyes because of its high salt and mineral contents. But even if it does, you just close your eyes for half a minute or so and the burning sensation disappears.

And here about our allergic rhinitis? It's too good to be true but it's quite true. After the Dead Sea bath, and a day after as I write this, I have not needed a single tissue paper with my runny nose, it only goes to show that despite all the tension we now benefit from chemically synthesized breakthrough medicines, we should not forget that nature has a huge store of therapies and healing substances which can humble even the best medical specialists in the world.

FOURTH FLOOR: shuttle bus with the healing mud.

FLOATING: a sea ideal for swimming but for healing

Giving Filipinos greater access to affordable medicines

THERE OF US WHO HAVE been constantly complaining about the high cost of medicines can now look forward to some sort of relief after the unanimous recent price (hike?) for essential drugs is fully implemented.

In essence, the MSP for several drugs mandates pharmaceutical companies to cut by at least 50 percent the prices of medicines for diseases such as hypertension, cancer, tuberculosis, diabetes and cholesterol.

The implementation of the MSP just proves that it is indeed possible to lower the prices of medicines. "This is a much-awaited development by Filipinos, especially those who shell out huge sums to buy maintenance medicines," said Teresa Marcelo Agana II, president and chief executive officer of Pharex Health Corp.

Pioneer

As the pioneer in generics **medicines**, **Pharex** is at the forefront of bringing to life-saving, high-quality, affordable medicines.

In fact, Agana said that **even after the 50 percent reduction** mandated by the MSP program, as branded medicines, it is still possible to lower the cost without affecting the quality of the drug. Proof of that is the low prices of Pharex medicines which, compared to reduced price of branded medicines, are still significantly lower by up to 20 percent.

Even with lower prices, Pharex guarantees that its generic medicines are of the highest quality. Its products undergo bioequivalence testing, which probes into the chemical and physical properties of a drug, including active ingredients, efficacy, toxicity and shelf life. These tests guarantee that the generic medicines manufactured and distributed by Pharex for public consumption are at par with branded innovator drugs and are consistent with the strict requirements of the Bureau of Food and Drugs.

Despite the low price of Pharex medicines, Agana explained they continue to look for ways to further bring down the cost. One result of such initiative is Pharex Economia, an advocacy program that leverages on sound economic principles to give Filipinos access to a wider range of premium quality, affordable medicines.

Main economic thrust

The main economic thrust of Pharex Economia is leveraging the advantage of economies of scale and the power of competition. In sourcing materials for example, Pharex goes directly to the open, global market where it can tap suppliers offering high-quality ingredients at competitive rates.

Unlike multinational companies, it doesn't pay royalty fees because it is a wholly owned subsidiary of the all-Filipino pharmaceutical giant Pascual Laboratories. Moreover, being an Innovator, Pharex has less advertising and promotions expenses. It also maximizes and strengthens its relationship with leading drugstores so that their products will be accessible nationwide.

Currently, Pharex Health Corp. markets 34 unit-brand of generic medicines in key therapeutic categories. It covers diseases such as hypertension, infections, high cholesterol and diabetes, which are among the leading causes of mortality in the country.

In all its efforts, Pharex consistently aim to make high quality and affordable medicines within the reach of the masses.

Are you getting the right treatment for osteoarthritis?

OSTEOARTHRITIS PATIENTS NOW have a better chance of leading a normal life with the use of crystalline glucosamine sulfate (GLS) as against conventional glucosamine-laden food supplements, an official of World Health Organization said recently.

"Taking food supplements is a game. Its for patients," warns Prof. Jean Yves Reginster, director of the WHO Collaborating Center for Public Health Aspects of Rheumatic Disorders. Among food supplements now being widely marketed in health food stores today are glucosamine hydrochloride and chondroitin sulfate.

"These substances don't have the same bioavailability and patients don't know exactly what percentage of the supplement is glucosamine, GLS, unavailable, is backed by extensive research and guarantees that a patient gets the effective dosage which is 1,500 mg per day," she adds.

Experts agree that the right glucosamine preparation is crucial to the management and treatment of osteoarthritis. Evidence from clinical trials show that preferred medication for long-term treatment of patients with osteoarthritis is crystalline glucosamine sulfate as the oral daily dosage of 1,500 mg over glucosamine hydrochloride, which was shown to be only marginally effective.

In clinical trials using the pain scale of Western Ontario and McMaster Universities Osteoarthritis Index, the outcome of tests using glucosamine hydrochloride and placebo did not differ significantly. Some results were obtained in trials using chondroitin sulfate and placebo.

The GAIT (Glucosamine/Chondroitin Arthritis Intervention Trial) in Caldwell showed that neither glucosamine hydrochloride nor chondroitin sulfate alone is effective for treating osteoarthritis of the knee. And if patients choose to take glucosamine as a dietary supplement, then they should take glucosamine sulfate rather than glucosamine hydrochloride.

Glucosamine sulfate is a derivative of the natural amino sugar substance that's the basic component of body cartilage. In its original state, glucosamine sulfate cannot be used in the preparation of medicine or dietary supplements due to its unstable chemical nature. The Rotta Research Group has invented and patented a chemical process that can help stabilize the substance, thereby producing glucosamine sulfate suitable for patients with osteoarthritis.

Weatherization and adaptation to climate change

Jessica Lucia

WARMING OF THE CLIMATE IS not settled. Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions will continue pushing critical increasing rates. Global temperatures will naturally rise. Extreme weather changes will take place, and disastrous typhoons such as the very recent ones will occur.

Since buildings are the single biggest contributor to climate change in the way of emissions and energy consumption, we refused to continually adopt green and weatherization strategies.

Weatherization means adapting buildings to the impacts of climate change. It also means governments helping communities respond to severe weather conditions.

Immediately we have to check if we use terrific efficient lighting. Do we practice daylighting, or do we need to put on the lights in the office in spite of so much sunshine outside? Are our electronic appliances all efficient? Do we use cooling devices and heating devices very efficiently?

Do we contribute to climate change by consuming all energy sources however buildings?

There are a few basic environmental considerations to a long far now known to architects, builders and homeowners. The urgent call for climate change mitigation technologies and parts to be here to be looked.

WEATHERIZATION for the Dutch means adapting buildings to the impacts of climate change, by designing floating homes built with pontoons as footings.

GREEN ARCHITRENDS

Antonio de Jesus

First of all, we need a flood protection system. Dike mapping of and strict building ordinances on flood prone areas must be put in place.

Refugee hut and bunk base investors can make it feasible for rebuilding and relocation of areas.

Green development

Real estate developers are expected to offer low prices for consolidation of large areas that have good possibilities for redevelopment. This is an excellent chance for building green businesses to concentrate for green development.

Cleanup needed is guarantee in some areas. Residents are provided clean-up kick of services.

Future homes will have to consider water-resistant building materials. Some will think of submersible constructions, or houses that will survive more than 10 feet of water like houses on stilts.

In likelihood, floating houses are built with pontoon technology and they can withstand floods. This is because some systems that does not traditionally carry most costs from factor or build.

Coastal development will need special study to minimize possible violent storms to grow. Buffer zones will contribute to shrinking footprints.

Properties in vulnerable areas are in danger of buyout using eminent domain. Public-friendly wetland and environment flood protection waterways can provide benefit. No homely buildup and no vulnerable areas.

Immediate construction of new housing for displaced citizens on higher ground will necessitate multi-level federal housing developments with higher density.

There homes may be modular for easy prefabrication. Height from the ground must consider flood risk. Emergency may be attached to a coastal, seaworthy-based van with mechanical systems. Many designs and materials should consider vulnerable and privacy.

We created refugees displaced into homelessness that have no temporary link to nearby places of work and schools. Experience shows that they will come back to their communities need basic infrastructure development and public spaces like a playground for use.

We can certainly learn from the experiences of the Dutch. They now realize that they need to develop innovative ways to deal with living like Overnight a green approach rather than simply running dikes.

The Dutch government has been acquiring land along major waterways to be used as flood plains during periods of high waters. These areas would serve as buffer zones, thus softening the sudden assault of the water by allowing it to spread. This minimizes the risk of destroying the dikes.

For comments or inquiries, e-mail winarchitrends@gmail.com

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"Ecotech+ is the first porcelain tile produced in the industry of level that retains the porosity, pores and natural color of the clay as one of other products. The result is a new composite material with a textured design, in which the chips and grains are aggregated to create an integrated surface with the previous ceramic specialties," Sean described.

In fact, Ecotech+ tiles is made up of 25 percent leftover by-products, 20 percent raw by-products, clay, 20 percent industrial waste and 5 percent chips.

Director of Ryan Romero, Marvin Fernandez, Ryan Romero, director of South East Gate Philippines added that their Ecotech+ tiles only the EU Norms label, the European eco-label that guarantee that the tiles passed the rigorous environmental Bureau trial.

"This is one assurance that Ecotech+ tiles' impact in the environment—from manufacturing to disposal—is low. Indeed, Ecotech+ is a new, optimistic and pro-active tiles that is environmentally friendly and planet," Fernandez description.

Ryan also shared that Ecotech+ tiles also possess one of the highest "R" ratings in the world, referring to a tile's ability to protect the floor when it is sliding.

Very important

"Slipperiness in the world, particularly in Europe and the United States, this rating is very important since it takes into account the tile surface's hardness, porosity, surface roughness and durability. The smooth-surfaced Ecotech+ tile is rated R9, the highest for a floor material that could be used indoors while the rough-surfaced Ecotech+ is rated R12 (rough-surfaced tiles goes up to R12 safety)," Ryan explained.

Director of Romero' tiles' removable high R rating and the EU Flooey label is crucial, this means that their product easily passed the rigorous standards of several experts and authorities including Arabi Land Lyons safety at Australia to Red Standards.

Ryan added that their company's research and development office is located in Poznan, Italy has immediate access to the current trends and technology to tile manufacturing.

"This will assure that our Philippine clients will not only get the best the world could offer but also the tile materials are environmentally friendly, recyclable and durable," he said.

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Posh amenities abound at Manhattan Heights

Manhattan Garden City is the first and only mixed-use development that is connected to the LRT1 and MRT3 lines. The whole metro can get there.

More than 30 varied amenities, including this lap pool amidst vibrant tropical landscaping, are planned for Manhattan Heights.

Manhattan Heights is the core development of Manhattan Garden City, the township joint venture project of Filinvest and the Ayala Group.

Relaxing at home is great, but what if you were to buy some grocery items on-hand, or want to go for a refreshing swim on a Saturday afternoon? Just thinking about getting into your car again or having to commute is already tiring. Wouldn't it be great if you could live in a place where everything you need is only a few steps away? If your answer is yes, then Manhattan Heights is the well-situated township that you are looking for.

This are very excited about Manhattan Heights, the first phase of Manhattan Garden City. With the number and diversity of amenities on hand, residents don't even have to move the premises to enjoy the weekend. They can find everything here, from fine dining to fitness facilities," noted Megaworld Central Properties Inc. President Anthony Charles Lagtu Sy.

"Our townships will enjoy hours of relaxation and convenience at the home with world-class amenities and all the basic needs are located. This also also conveniently all the towers in Manhattan Heights, just thanks to the extremely active of much residential in close," he stated.

Outdoor amenities include two-lane jogging paths, a swimming pool, and an outdoor spa. A six-hectare active and recreation area are for those who want to practice yoga. All amenities are already accessible from every unit. For residents who want to catch up on their reading, a community library is also available as a place to relax and unwind.

A play zone for children, a reflexology path and landscaped gardens also abound. The indoor amenities can be found at Towers Rome C. These include a gym for those who want to do some resistance training and aerobics, as well as a spa and sauna. Residents need to catch up with some work, meeting rooms and function rooms present their convenient needs. In addition to these, a mini-theater, internet corner suite and access to video packets abound to some suites.

The four signature levels of each tower are known as the Sky Garden Room, and they have direct access to "sky gardens" – lush, landscaped settings with benches, palm trees and exercise stations. Here, residents can enjoy fresh air and relaxing while reading a book, or simply admiring the lovely view from the sky gardens provide. At the ground level of the tower, there are cafes and restaurants, making shopping a fun yet efficient experience.

Since Manhattan Garden City is a transit-oriented development, Manhattan Heights residents have direct access to the MRT-3 and LRT-1 lines via elevated garden walkways. The exclusive network of walkways also leads to the Gateway Mall and Araneta Coliseum. The development is less than 20 minutes away from the Ortigas CBD, 10 minutes away from Eastwood, and less than 10 minutes away from the new Bonifacio Area.

For more information on Manhattan Heights, please call 910-2000 or visit the Manhattan Garden City showroom at the 3rd level of Gateway Mall.

PROPERTY

Editor Cesar D. Manzanares

LIVING GREEN SERIES

Most sustainable surface under your feet

By Charles E. Bahay

GRANITE TILES ARE among the most popular materials being used for designing the interior or exterior of a house, office or commercial building.

They not only are highly durable and resistant to most household chemicals, including bleach, but also could easily blend with most color schemes and design themes.

Unfortunately, granite tiles are not a sustainable building material since they are quarried from the mountains, they cannot be replaced, and does not grow back.

"But this does not mean we abandon granite as a building material. What if we could create an alternative that is as long lasting and as beautiful looking as granite tiles? This is what we completely has done and brought here in the Philippines," explained Alessandro Bassi of Scandy Euro Gate.

PHOTO BY

ECO-FRIENDLY version of your favorite granite tiles.

2bU LIFESTYLE
Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan
Subeditor Edna Pura Pantoja

Skirting the trend

Trendy chick's lowdown on pocket-friendly skirts

By Dionisiaque Marie M. Tia
Contributor

AS A CHILD, I'M ALWAYS been fascinated by my dad's shirts, which came in an array of prints and patterns, and were really cool. It's not that I've never worn skirts: I just thought hers were very much cuter. Also, as I usually had physical contact more than inside my dingy den, when I wanted pencil skirts—she said those are very trendy. So when she was out to rehearse for a party, I would go up to her room and try them on, and I still do, only this time, they didn't go past my shins anymore.

That is a universal fact: The skirt is an ephemeral fashion commodity. It comes in various forms and is reincarnated in diverse styles.

I wasn't the most perceptive child of the bunch, but I was pretty much "there" when the skirt fashion evolved. I was there when my tita traded her pencil skirts for knee-length circulars. I was there when she ditched the circle skirts deep in her closet in exchange for flared A-line skirts.

CHLOE Flare skirt

COEXIST floral "Lily" skirt

At some point in my early high school, I altogether stopped wearing skirts because I jumped into the bandwagon of "slightest pant" every time I wore one—circa 2001, I thought slightest pants were way cooler than skirts!

TULLE skirt from Balenciaga

TULLE "Bouyit Pura" skirt from Giberna

Stereotyping skirts

Falling in love with skirts again wasn't instantaneous. The way mostly because I harbored my stereotypes about it:

First, I thought skirts were too plain and drab. There's nothing much you can do in a skirt to give people the same impression—that you're a jolly and peppy "girly-girl." In fact, I'm guilty that, a preconceived, immature reminder, I told myself never to succumb to pesty patriarchal ideals, as quite obviously I resisted), skirts were made precisely to project the glory of all sexually bits exotic into sight, and if I could sound back in time, I'd definitely prove that men were the sole inventors of skirts.

Of course, my sisters about being stereotyped as the "girly-girl" dissipated the moment mothers California fashion went mainstream and infiltrated the Philippines—you know, denim mini and flared cotton skirts (either Hollister, Roxy and Ann Taylor), paired with basic tees and tanks and flip-flops.

This was definitely the era I fell in love with skirts again. The "Social" (So Celebrities) approach was a great wardrobe compromise to my personality-style crises, as it retained a certain femininity and it is casual and laid-back.

Falling in love with skirts

Now that I've eradicated the preconception of skirts in general, the next obstacle I had to over-

(CONTINUED ON C2)

Booty-licious

Kick things up a notch and take inspiration from Balenciaga's A/W 2009 bow boots

By Kat Cruz

What you'll need:

Silver or suede ankle boots

Two 1.5 yards, 2 inch thick coloured velvet ribbons

Two color threads to match the ribbons

A pack of silver or gunmetal studs

Needle, thread and scissors

Step 1: To the rim

Cover the boot opening with one ribbon, leaving half amount of ribbon allowance from the rim. Fold the allowance toward the inside of the boot and sew.

Step 2: Twist and turn

Using the second ribbon, cut two five-inch-long strips. Tie the front and inner side of the boot, one each ribbon in between the boot and the first ribbon. Twist twice in the opening of the boot and knot. Cut another two strips, nine inches in length. Position the ribbon at the back and outer side of the boot, but this time, turn it on the opening of the boot first. Twist and tie these two ribbons into a knot.

Step 3: Star-studded

Sew studs on the first colored ribbon in the front and inner side of the boot.

Ivan Valencia, 25

Origin occupation: Artist

What are you wearing? My polo is from Gang, shorts from Langrove Surfer, shoes from Kenneth Cole and bag from Shibumi.

Describe your style: I'm "preppy meets street."

John Spakowski, 21

Art a Gate-Link dipoid/ Zaid Bender artist

What are you wearing? Pull over from Fashion Jacket from Hollister and shoes another from Columbia.

Describe your style: My style is more street.

Street style

Text and photos by Mikaela Borjapao
Contributor

They dress to impress

Cameron Clark, 21

Origin occupation: Electrical Engineering

What are you wearing? Both shirt and pants are from Topshop. I got my vintage belt and bag from a trip to Singapore. Boots are from Urban Outfitters.

Describe your style: My style is a bold fashion, alternative and indie.

Mia Ferrer, 23

What are you wearing? Both my vest and shorts are from Greenhills. Bag is from Cebu but it hails and pants are from Ukay's.

Describe your style: I am very relaxed when it comes to dressing up.

Valeen Vicente, 19

Zen-Ed Gate College of Cool/ Fashion

Style inspiration: I get inspired by random stuff. I do like Kylie Minogue.

What are you wearing? I got this blazer from here. My tank is from Zara, bag from Forever 21 and shoes from Colcom.

Describe your style: I like boho now and already at the same time. I don't try to look cute. I like looking sober!

Stylephile: Myrrh Lao To

By Rosanna Aranas
Contributor

WHAT TOGETHER AND BRAD ARE TO RACHEL Zoe is what Myrrh Lao To is to super-stylist Patti Quillinan, the owner of the cutie brains, of consultancy. After graduating from LSU with a degree in fashion administration, this 21-year-old has gotten one of the nicest arrows/jobs, being an assistant to a stylist who oversees Mandy's every fancies.

"I want to add to my skills for arrow's styling while continue doing photography" he says. Armed with safety pins and double-sided tape, Myrrh can be seen hard at work on an outfit that can be described as strategically thrown together. Inspired by his trainer Patti, his handy and lifesaver for clothes has quite an "easy vibe."

He favors prototypes, especially this for work, dress pants and low-neck tanks worn for days when he is out from day-to-night, which is often, considering his hectic schedule. Though he likes to stick to outfits he is comfortable in, he is a firm believer that one should never stop outdoors for experiment.

With a wardrobe full of black, grey and navy basics—and a closet full of thrift finds, this avid shopper is definitely no fashion cook. Myrrh likes to check out online boutiques, department stores and surplus shops. While he does not have style icon for boutiques as well, he is a frequent visitor of the shopping, where he has stumbled upon a number of designer pieces!

One of the list, he picks Alexander McQueen as one of his favorite designers because of his workmanship and showmanship. Fellow brother loves Alexander McQueen's designs is that they make people nervous, yet leave them craving for more. He's also a fan of John Galliano, whom he describes as "the epitome of theatrics" and he is looking forward to more of Viktor Horsting, Christophe Decarnin and Alexander Wang.

"The age of fashion hanged after the '90s and the designs aren't as done as the past with exception fashion are just making a trend comeback," he said.

A child of the '90s, Myrrh points out crystals from before he was born that he would love to see again. For him, it is time to remember solid prints from the '70s, flashy makeup from the '80s, and of course, plaid to choose for everyone. (Mrs. Stylist)

Closet Sheet

Name: Myrrh Lao To

Age: 21

Occupation: Stylist / Photographer

Personal style: Easy chic

Style icon: "Whoever the male Kate Moss is. Paul Newman and Ivan Ford."

What's hanging in your dream closet? Line Rodarte suits and the entire wardrobe of the Tyler Durden.

Fashion motto: "Be open to everything. When you start to feel like fashion you live it, your fitness now."

Skirting the trend

From page B1

some was the spotty availability of skirts. Sizes, you could find a speckle in various boutiques but most of the time, they were ill-fitting and had wrong proportions; those that were perfect in every aspect were available only in top-of-the-line brands/stores (Topshop, Zara, Mango and Prevue). Being a student at that time, I wouldn't splurge.

Thankfully with numerous online fashion stores, this season's trendy skirts (and its accessories) are accessible. Online enterprises are almost always hassle free (taking into account that the seller is legit and reliable). It is shopping without leaving the coldness of your room, a very cathartic and penetrating process, if you ask me.

Online shopping

Take for example Glitterati (www.shopglitterati.multiply.com), an online store my friends and I swear by for its good quality and designer inspired pieces. The criteria I set for purchasing skirts are its sustainability and versatility as a fashion piece. It should make a statement, but should not be overwhelming or that I can't pair it off with a good top. It should take me from day to night.

Take for example the Petal Pusher tulip skirt from Glitterati—the tulip cut is almost always flattering for most body types as it gives the illusion of hips, in case you have narrow ones, given as many peek-a-boo. It also hides hips, given its shape. Any other thing I love about this skirt is that depending on your ability to mix and match, it can look equal of glamorous, dainty or edgy...definitely a fashion paradox!

"PETAL Pusher" tulip skirt from Glitterati

Another skirt brand I'm crazy about is one I've seen on the telly—let's give it to Balmain for giving the mlle a new dimension, allowing it to morph from inner wear (as it's mostly used to shape up a skirt or dress) to outer wear.

Another store to check out is Corene (www.corenebutterfield.multiply.com). What attracted me [illegible] my roommates, my friends] to this shop is its sweet atmosphere—certainly sentimental. Yet, the pieces from crochet anklets and flirty sweat pieces. My pick is a floral-style skirt reminiscent of Chloé's Boho pieces—a brand that has the same feel—it's a piece that makes you fit stands-out in every possible pastoral setting.

There's Dressberry (www.pinkberry.multiply.com), if you want a mini with variety! It has sleek activewear wear, punk rock pieces, and funky, quirky ensembles. People, except by its tassel watercolor "Wip" skirt reminiscent of Lucifer's piece.

Of course, if online shopping isn't your style, other noteworthy shops to explore (apart from the usual Topshop, Zara and Mango) are Luisa at Eastwood, The Bangkal Overalypo, Forum, Gingermags, Ann G, U and Urbo Avenue at Robinsons, Powerplant Anthology, and Mykonos.

My last advice...and I'd like to believe, the most important—there's no new formula for a winning ensemble. There's no preferred fashion staple, or preferred trend—for it's the quintessential shirt, the basic white tank and white tee. It's a matter of expressing yourself and of having the confidence and flair to rock.

Knowing that and given this bounty of resources, I no longer find the need to raid my lola's dress from her closet...much.

Of course, the cheapest way to stay in fashion is to recycle your mother's or lola's or ancestor's pieces...So when you're in a fight sequence, take that road! After all, fashion is a cycle, it goes up, it goes down, and it tends come back!

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Kiss the rain

How two UP blockmates opened the Philippines' first one-stop 'rain shop'

By Snobson Cabal

"SEA WONDER" umbrella and "Mardi Paras" rain boots

ON A FATEFUL RAINY day in July 2007, Estel de Siguenza's younger sister came home from school drenched and exclaimed, "I need rain boots!" That prompted Estel and Em Soriano, blockmates since their college days at UP, to form Brightlival, Inc., the official distributor of Pluvys in the Philippines.

They weren't sure if the trip home would stick, but within three days of bid selling in Rockwell Bazaar in November 2007, the booth were sold out, with over 100 orders pending.

"In my own college experience, rain was an extreme hassle, especially when I had to walk from one building to another," shared Estel, who believes that we should have our own opinion since our country is soaked in rain half if not most of the year. For Estel and Em, it is best to be stylishly equipped for a rainy day.

"We want to inspire girls to look forward to the rain. We want them to look forward to dressing up when they wake up to the sound of rain," said Estel.

Last September, they launched ReadyForRain.com, the Philippines' first one-stop rain shop. They plan to be Manila's go-to resource for fashionable and functional rain wonders soon. ReadyForRain.com caters to women, with its popular rain boots bound to all buyers in size custom-made or rubber footwear wears over regular shoes), and Glamorous, or rain gears' colorful printed line.

Recently, the rain gear tandem added fifty-fifty to their portfolio, a hand-crafted umbrella line. "The pieces are limited. Only 24 people can own each umbrella design in Manila," Em said. The best part of purchasing these lovely umbrellas is that 50% of the amount will go to the Wheelmobile project to help wheelchair users to be mobile around the metro through a modified van.

The creators of My + Firefly is husband and wife tandem Allan and Mitzi Mabesa, a watchdog as it herself, "she has multi-passing her life's work! Her wheelchair has an articulated drawing table on that she can paint anywhere she goes," said Mitzi.

The umbrellas have a longer-and-cheek design, with fun, quirky names like "Here Kissed," with a sunny contour featuring an adorable doll's face; dog running happy strides, or "My Grumpy," inspired by the opposing faces of a dog. Mitzi doodle and gave the finish touch. "Monsoon" will remind you of the ex break days of summer, with its watery-ish designs.

Your rain-drenched days are over with Bright-lival's stylish, colorful rain gear offerings, which will make you sing under the rain in no time.

"SUNSHELLOW" Bright umbrella signals bright, vibrant days ahead

SHOW off your penchant for all things tokyo with 'Origami Me' rain boots and 'Here Kamui' umbrella.

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The exceptional advantages of Havila:

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- Accessible to Assumption, La Salle in Antipolo, La Salle Greenhills, Xavier School, Ateneo de Manila, Miriam College and University of the Philippines.
- Lifestyle conveniences like SM Taytay and the Ortigas Business District are just a short drive away.
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24/7 LIFESTYLE

Have you been a victim of cyber-harassment?

It's like bullying except that it happens not between kids, but adults

By Arnelle S. Tayao
Cross Breeze

SOME TIME BETWEEN Friendster and Facebook, there was Multiply. Its most refreshing feature: You could post anything and everything you wanted, but restrict the content specifically to cronies of your choice. It's a feature Patrick Siow failed to use—and has probably become the biggest regret of his life so far.

He blog, titled "The difference between me Universities," has received a lot of negative attention from the Multiply community, specifically UP Diliman students. In such a context, in fact, that he has already closed the account containing the blog.

It transforms from ULSU Manila, Nichols, to his blog, complains about his recent change of campus. At first it sounds like the typical I'm-a-new-student-finding-it-hard-to-fit-in-and-so-I-hate-you-all. Kind... of angst. After the first paragraph, however, things start to become interesting.

From UP's non-air-conditioned classrooms to "disgusting chairs and hunched-over-old profs" to the "nerdy students," Patrick loves and just how he feel his previous university is. But what triggered the anger of most UP students was no doubt to UP's symbol of pride—the Oblation. Patrick wrote, "...the statue that upholds a bold representation of what it means to be a peasant...," and in closing-on, set off a stink that carried no further platitudes—just a subtle hint of cyber hate.

Bullying

What happened to Patrick is a case of cyber harassment, and it can seriously affect the person being targeted, according to the website stopcyberbullying.org. Cyberharassment is much like cyberbullying, "when a child, preteen or teen is tormented, threatened, harassed, humiliated, embarrassed or otherwise targeted by another child, preteen or teen using the Internet, interactive and digital technologies or mobile phones"—except that it occurs between adults.

The harassment aims to embarrass—some just mild racism ("Take care, PATRICK"), others quite threatening ("Would my pc not encounter any sons we 'RIP?' Press alumni etc before other UP students remember this word to you the hard way"), and others even trying to fuel (note the anger of the bullying round by pretending their comments were from Patrick ("Sorry, sorry, sorry, Pre-P's sake P") Post on general by blog on July 23—the comments only stopped almost two months later, and by that time, it had also been reposted over and over again. One Multiply site, aptly called University Jackass, even served as the central hub for bashing Patrick and his blog.

Unless you are on the receiving end of cyber-harassment, you don't really feel that

(NEXT PAGE, D2)

Sony Ericsson Walkman® phones bring music to life

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Sony Ericsson
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In this garage-based school, 'bulilits' are 'iskolars'

A banker, Danidon Nolasco has been providing free pre-school education to kids

By Walter Ang
Contributor

HAVING GROWN UP ALONG the railroad tracks of Merceditas, Danidon Nolasco knows how difficult life can be for children who have to grow up in low economic conditions. To help out, he has been providing free pre-school education to children of Barangay Bell for the past eight years through his project called "Bulilit Iskolar" (Little Scholar).

"It concentrates on the fundamentals of learning, like reading and counting, arts and crafts, and, most importantly, moral instruction," he says. "The program prepares them for elementary education. There is also a feeding program. A nourished mental faculty is better for absorption of learning."

The thing is, Nolasco isn't a teacher. He took up computer science at Silliman University and joined the banking industry during the big Filipinotown Boy scare. The idea for Bulilit Iskolar was born a bit later per spouse when he ran for barangay kagawad in 2002.

He won the barangay slide's Scrambolero, Nolasco decided to push through with the project.

While the project is subsidized in part by barangay funding, Nolasco shoulders the allowance of the volunteer teachers and other expenses. Just like a regular school, classes are held Mondays to Fridays, instead of a school building, though, students learn in Nolasco's family's converted garage.

"In the mornings, I make sure the scholars are doing well before I go to work," he says. "We have 60 kids this school year. We had our largest batch last year with 80 schools. The garage isn't very big, so there is a morning class and an afternoon class."

Binoe Chris is only one teacher, some of the students' parents volunteer their help sometimes as well.

Popular

The project has become popular and now accepts children from nearby barangays like Hanagdong Cupang and Sucor. Even though Nolasco's endeavored term as kagawad has wanted to ensure that Bulilit Iskolar remains apolitical.

"I want the scholars to say they are the product of the project, and not of any politicians," he says.

The students of the project usually proceed to public schools for their elementary education.

"The difference is that they are better equipped than other students. They receive good remarks from their principals because most of the Bulilit Iskolars excel in their classes. I'm proud to say that we have already 'graduated' around 500 students from the program," he says.

"Some alumni, like John Jomhar Felipe and Jean Lauresta, who are already in the fifth grade, are common honor students at Bell Elementary School."

Nolasco's penchant for volunteerism started even before he joined public office. He was president of Silliman Radio Communication Group, an organization that conducts youth leadership training, rescue operations and distribution of relief goods.

"We received a Hall of Fame award for being one of the Three Outstanding Youth Organizations in Bais," he says.

Intentions

His interest in education stems from the fact that both his parents were part-time college teachers in Saint Rita College, Pamplinan during the 80s and 90s. They are retired now and run a small store selling—what else?—school supplies, while helping me with Bulilit Iskolar by almost doing the power bills.

Nolasco's enthusiasm for helping children become better educated is apparently boundless.

"Members of the Christian Boys Choir of San Nicolas de Tolentino Parish and Mabuyan Radio Communications Group assisted us in connecting the classroom. College student volunteers from different schools like ASSI Computer Learning Center also bring number feeding programs and community services," he says.

But it's not just big groups that help out. His friends do what they can to their individual capacities. His colleagues from the banking industry usually donate materials, while his friend Julie Garcia helps me with solicitations.

"Not just for money, but also for school materials like books, notebooks, coloring books, pencils, and crayons," she says.

People who help buy into Bulilit Iskolar don't get anything in return materially, but we get a lot of self fulfillment because it helps us feed our passion for helping others."

"Education is a primary concern of society. Education builds character," Nolasco says. He plans to formally register Bulilit Iskolar as a nongovernmental organization, "so it will cater to a broader scope of indigent children, not just in our barangay but elsewhere, too. We want to conduct leadership programs for the youth and instill in them the value of learning, so they can realize how they can contribute to society."

To donate or volunteer, e-mail bulilit_iskolar@yahoo.com or call 215-9367.

Remix dance contest set Oct. 22

By Marina Villaluna
Contributor

"REMIX 09: KARADANSE LABANDERA!," an inter-school dance competition at De La Salle Dasmariñas Islands and De La Salle College of Saint Benilde, will be held Oct. 22, 7 p.m., at the SLAU Teresa Barbungco Auditorium.

Bataluk, this year aims to raise awareness about the 2010 elections and the need for the youth to take part in them.

La Salle Dance Company is the organizer of Bataluk. The contest's entry 9 rule were held last Sept. 17.

Tickets for the finals are P100 and P300. Contact: Jerome Villaseca at 09175276699.

BUM'S PHILOSOPHY OF INNOVATION KEEPS BRAND RELEVANT

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

Seventeen years of providing the most exciting apparel for the adventurous teens marked a no-sale in the park.

But Bum's philosophy of innovation keeps it relevant to the niche market it serves, continuously taking risks so the Filipino youth can enjoy the most fashionable and comfortable clothes in the country.

"We're thankful that our brand continues to grow substantially despite the hard times, thanks to our loyal customers," said Nathan Mikaya, Bum's general manager.

Bum is the clothing line that caters to the teens apparel and accessories needs in over 150 outlets in department stores and another 6 stand-alone stores nationwide.

Launched in 1992, Bum is celebrating its 17th anniversary this year.

From a company that first got inspiration from beige boards, Bum has come a long way, evolving to new unique identity that allows its teens customers to relate to their products.

Last year, Bum shifted its focus from the "basic athletic, sporty" fashion in favor of the "modern goth" or the "emo" look.

"We looked at the market and identified what is not there and realized that there is a need for gothic-inspired clothing," Mikaya said. "Since then, it has become easier for us to target our customers."

Bum is also credited for helping craft a separate identity for the "teens" market in department stores, differentiating itself from the "boys" and "girls" section.

"In a conservative market like the Philippines, the emo' look is very specific, running a risk is involved," he said.

So far, the move has proved effective, garnering positive feedback from Bum teenage customers many of which

pursues back every after week to the Bum's outlets for new designs.

This month, Bum launches its new campaign that promises to melt the Filipino youth yet again.

It's "Bitch Ain't[TEE are you?" any statement shirts that encapsulates the feelings of teenagers-an example of which: "Pain is what makes me stronger" printed on the most fashionable manner.

"Our goal is to make the youth feel that wearing Bum is cool," Mikaya said. "And we're getting there."

Bum continues to reach out to its target market, partnering with radio stations in their campus tours during fashion shows for high school and college students around the country.

It helps, too, that Bum is endorsed by the country's most promising celebrities. "But the focus remains on the brand image and how these up-and-coming stars looks like when wearing them," he said.

To ensure that their designs are at par with the rest of the world, Mikaya said they team goes out of the country to attend fashion fairs and seminars to gain inspiration which they translate into their own unique designs.

While he said it's hard to make predictions which would be "in" in the fashion world in the next five or ten years, one thing is for sure, he said, that Bum will never stop innovating, promising more campaigns and stylish designs next year.

A gathering of Friends

Manila hosts the largest global offline gathering of Friendster users

FRIENDSTER, INC., A TOP 25 GLOBAL website listed on Nasdaq, held recently its first annual Share Friendster Day, which was its way of thanking Friendster fans for their support over the past seven years.

More than 7,000 Friendster members descended up for the festivities at the SM Mall of Asia, making Pinoy Friendster Day the largest offline global gathering of Friendster users in the company's history.

The event featured entertainment by real friends, speed dating, style makeovers, and a fireworks display.

It was hosted by Johnny Chase, Luciano Quiche and Zip Cody of Blast FM 103.5. Partners were KFC, Label 5, Glean & Clean Joggers, Choice, Dell, Smart Buddy and Smart Bro. Media partners included Manila Bulletin, Inquirer, Cebu, ETC, Tech TV, Chot TV, 101.5 Max FM, 99.5 RT, Jam 88.3, and Wave 89.1.

Friendster users were admitted to the event when they presented their free admission passes which they generated online via their cam phones and printed via the "Share Friendster Day Official Profile" (www.friendster.com/pinoyfriendsterday). Pictures from the event and comments from attendees can be viewed on the profile too.

Sponsors organized booths, offering spa makeovers. Popular artists who performed included hip hop artist Yeng, PG Rico Blanco, ex-and hip hoppers Pupil, Pedicab, Disc-chasers, bCycle Mind, and Callalily.

Additionally, the event featured a massive Friendsters Reunion graffiti board, resembling the popular Shoutout feature on Friendsters.com, for attendees to post messages. Some participants produced their own music videos and were given personal DVD copies of their performances.

Friendster would like to thank those who attended Pinoy Friendster Day and all who participated online. Additionally, we'd like to offer a special thanks to the sponsors that supported this successful event," said Ben Brain, Friendster vice president for the Philippines. "Bringing our users together offline is a natural extension of what Friendster offers users online and is a great example of how we're building a fun, interactive community. We're excited to be planning future events here in the Philippines and similar events throughout Southeast Asia."

Leader in the Philippines

In the Philippines, Friendster is the No. 1 social network, the No. 2 website and the No. 1 mobile site.

With over 12 million monthly active users in the Philippines in August 2009, over 90 percent of the Internet users in the Philippines visit Friendster each month.

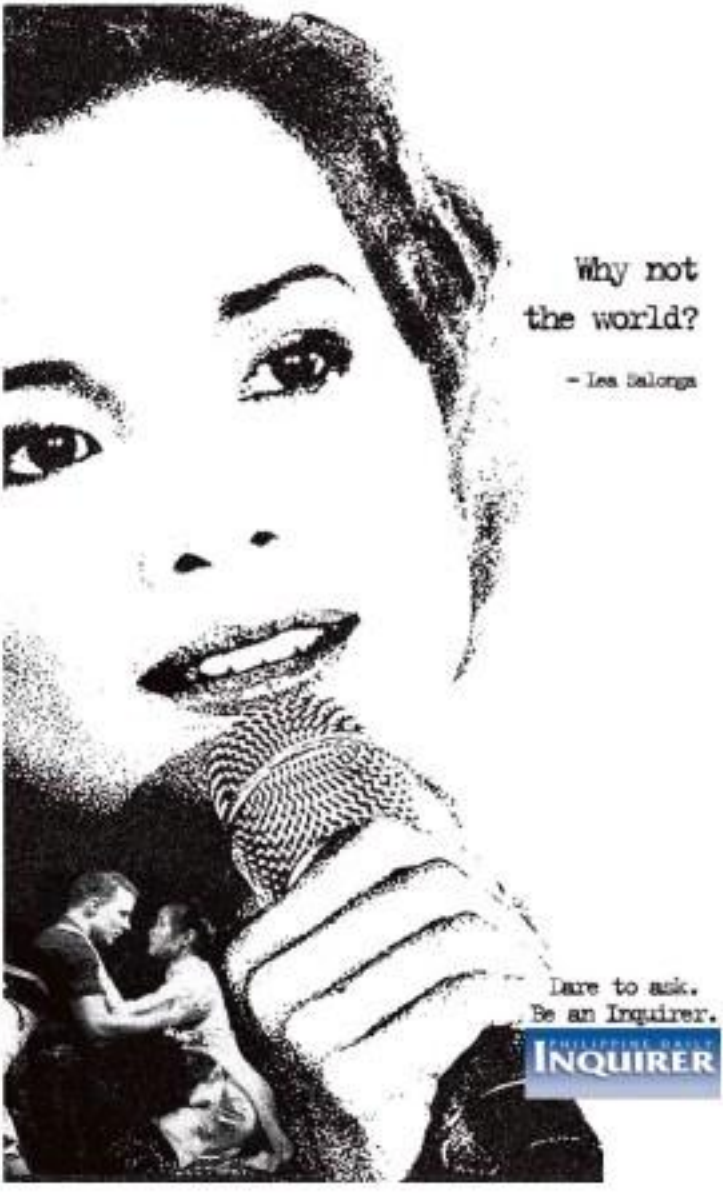
A typical user spends 39 minutes a day on Friendster and visits Friendster several times a week, communicating with friends and sharing and consuming content from the site's suite of features.

Web more than 110 million members worldwide, Friendster is a leading global online social network. Friendsters is forward-thinking people stay in touch with friends and discover new people and things that are important to them.

Friendster prides itself in delivering an easy-to-use, friendly and interactive environment where users can easily connect with anyone around the world via www.friendster.com or m.friendster.com from any Internet-ready mobile device.

Friendster has a growing portfolio of patents on social networking, with more expected over the next several months.

Headquartered in Mountain View, California, Friendster is backed by Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers, Benchmark Capital, DAG Ventures, IDG Ventures and individual investors. For more information, visit www.friendster.com.



Have you been a victim . . .

From page B1

what's happening, for UP alumni, I, too, was hooked by all the comments, excited at how the next thread would be planned. A hundred more or less, I lost count a moments later, however, the lobbo started to bore—some people were asking for the haters to just stop and we'll think this a second IB again.

They weren't exactly on Patrick's side, they just felt that the guy had suffered enough. He even posted his public apology on Universe Jackass, "My sincerest apology to my fellow IU-ians. Do take pardon for what I have posted at Multiply. This is just a blog, a never-stopped thought that me through my mind. Later on should I find that not only me I involving the students from UP, but also myself. I take full responsibility of the shame that has been placed against me. I ask of you to pls delete the reposted blog entry that I have made. I have learned my lesson... I was just randomly typing this blog and that I didn't know that all of you would take this blog seriously—this is where I was wrong... I assure you that I will not do this again and would write something that would place the name of our school in ruin. I admit that I have committed a mistake and I would gladly appreciate your consideration of forgiving me."

But Patrick is lucky. Last year a teenage girl in the US killed herself after being bullied by just one woman via MySpace—and that was just one person. In Patrick's case, the online community, for words, realized really enough that they were now ing came throwing around all that anger. I myself wouldn't add more virulent remarks against Patrick. For me, he's just a guy who had a bad day decided to blog and forgot to erase the story to his contacts.

The ends had served its purpose, and Patrick seemed to have learned his lesson—a lesson we can all benefit from: Freedom of speech is your constitutional right, but with it comes responsibility. It's easy to accidentally expose what you had no intention of exposing on the Internet, so be careful...and remember that everything else on the Web, that privacy button is just one click away.

Dare to ask. Be an Inquirer.
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

CHIEL Kevin, Jon, and Ben at Glorietta 5

PROPELLING itself towards ease of accessibility and utmost convenience through sustainable features, the future of business and leisure is here in Glorietta 5!

GLORIETTA 5 converges a myriad of retail and local favorites and business office space, all conveniently nestled at the heart of Makati City

SPOTTED:

THE JABBAWOCKEEZ at GLORIETTA 5!

IDE OF JABBAWOCKEEZ checks out a collared shirt which is his fashion staple

THE KICKS that will make any dance like the Jabbawockeez. Pedersa by Skechers Pinoy Ipa

IRIANO FRESHLY just like the Jabbawockeez. Pedersa by Skechers Easy

JABBAWOCKEEZ'S Boi sure knows what he needs in clothes

ASIA'S fashionista lovers, shopping lovers, and good eats, Glorietta 5 gathers the metro's young professionals, stylephiles, tech-lovers, and foodies to one convergence zone. With its mall brands, restaurants, and specialty boutiques, it is no wonder why world-renowned personalities such as sensational dance group Jabbawockeez also enjoys shopping at Glorietta 5.

Winning the $50,000 grand prize on the first season of MTV's America's Best Dance Crew in 2007, Jabbawockeez has captured its audience with its creativity, unique choreography, athleticism and astounding synchronization. Mixing street and theatrical elements, they create a sweet fusion of new emotions and graceful movements in every performance. Their iconic Kabuki-style white masks give a sense of mystique and wonder while emphasizing the group's unison and synchronicity.

A 10-man group, five of whom are Filipinos, Jabbawockeez has an impressive resume that covers live performances alongside prominent musicians, international tours, films, and commercials campaigns. They recently campaigned for Subaside and their "S" campaign yielded TV ads with Muhammad Ali and Michael Jordan as well as viral videos on the Internet. The group was the opening act in the nationally-televised NBA All-Star Game and performed with Shaquille O'Neal, making national headlines.

With their hip-hop dance and street style, the Jabbawockeez swooped to Glorietta 5 for their fashion mixed-haves. Making a statement with street wear, Jabbawockeez members Joe, Rainer, Chris, Kevin, Ben, Phil and Phi scoured Glorietta 5 for edgy basics from Bench, a wide selection of urban apparel from Folded & Hung, Jet-set, Skechers, Rivanglen, Shaden and Solo. There, one is sure to find Jabbawockeez-inspired fashion staples.

Conveniently located at the center of the Makati Business District, Glorietta 5 houses our favorite local fashion brands such as Bench, Folded & Hung, The Rave, Rebelia, Uma Hija, Edgar Allan, Smeulah, Tori to, Classified, Prizma, Sassa, Plaza B, Pinto, Kamanduan, Bobby Newman to, Board O'Flame, Indio, Sonsara, Bread N' Butter, K2, Shades, Jag, and Rivanglen. Plus a concept store of Filipino made artisan finds and to called Artwork where collection of graphic tees will surely keep you in style for all seasons.

KRUNEN and Joe are all smiles holding their precious gifts!

Choices among Mario's, Alexis, Chicca, Celine, Skechers, Ferretti, Jaeglen, Jess, Mandrew, Mendl, Chirelle, Confetti, Le Cheese, Milan, Edo, Footy Lopez and Lacoste are for that perfect pair. Visit National Bookstore, Aperson's, Rita Optical, Seiko, The Optical Shop, Ching Velayo, FAZ Jewelry, Mercedes, Ivoir, Cashmere, The Fabric Warehouse, Kandy & Karen, Carriage Shop, Magno Optical, Cameraheaus, Cheese, Kershaw Japan, Ink and Hen's Watch Center, Ricky Reyes Hair Salon, Kids Boris, Avon, Prima Gold, KJ Guitar, Bilms, Gogo, Mikasanda Jewelry, and Ebanyo for your other leisure needs.

Discover more stores including Accessorio, Aloha, Carlos Pinoy Village, King Phillip, Kindlen's, Marcella, Mey, Quango's Jewelry, Rusty Lopez, Penny Ira Novelle, Happy Feet, Banana Peel, Style, Clarice's, Nalandi and Sanuli.

These and more are some of the reasons why we say small at the Ayala Malls!

EVEN the tall guys at Jabbawockeez need a small fit.

A CAP always makes a great statement from Bench

THE COOLEST t-shirt prints only from Rusty Lopez

CHIEL is all ready to dine and spend

BUTTON down polo from Folded & Hung

LAYER it up with a button down polo and nice tank from Folded & Hung

CONFETTI like polka dots with them frames from CONFETTI at Rockin

SKECHERS hi-top Meritz. Lightweight for the kind of shoe that will serve dancers like Jabbawockeez best prefer to wear

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TIENDESITAS

What would you take with you in 2012?

After the tsunamis, volcanic eruptions–to name a few catastrophes–people say what they'll preserve

By Pam Pastor

ONDOY." "PEPENG." THE earthquake and tsunami in Samoa. As one disaster after another struck, people started asking themselves, "is the end near?"

Then came the Internet heroes. People who posted scriptures from the Revelations on Facebook, people spreading links about doomsday predictions, people renting the crap out of other people.

But king on the scary color? The trailer of the movie 2012.

Volcanic eruptions

The film explores the series of catastrophic events that will supposedly devastate the world in 2012, according to Mayan predictions. The trailer shows tsunamis, glaciers, volcanic eruptions and people struggling to stay alive.

We saw it a couple of weeks after "Ondoy" hit and got goosebumps as we watched the horror nature could wreak on the world. Sure, the big scenes of destruction are to be expected. After all, the movie was directed by Roland Emmerich, the same guy who worked on "Independence Day" and "The Day After Tomorrow." But the trailer was deeply affecting footage after "Ondoy." It seemed all too real.

That evening, I started researching about 2012—the movie and the real-life predictions people have been making.

The people behind the movie made sure they have a strong online presence, using the Internet for viral marketing. They created several websites including one that allows users to register to join the survival lottery and win a spot in a 2012 survival shelter.

Distracted

But I didn't spend too much time on that site...because I was distracted with another. The other website asks, "If the human race were to survive, what works of film, art, literature and music would you choose to preserve?"

For weeks, people from all over the world voted.

What is easier than the apocalypse? What do people want to include in the preservation list?

First up, movies. Sorry, Steven Spielberg, Sorry Alfred Hitchcock. Cry your eyes out, Woody Allen. No, Stanley Kubrick. Save the glitzy party, Quentin Tarantino and Francis Ford Coppola. I'm sorry, Krzysztof Kieslowski. The people of the world have enjoyed your films but no, they do not want to preserve your masterpieces. The one movie they want to save if the world indeed comes to an end is...drumroll, please... "Twilight."

I am not kidding. Honorable mentions? "Moonwalker" (yes, that Michael Jackson movie) and the "Star Wars" series.

Twilight, Twilight, Twilight

For literature, Stephenie Meyer's the "Twilight" saga took the lordmost to J.K. Rowling's "Harry Potter" series. Rowling and Meyer both loved Shakespeare, whose "Romeo and Juliet" came in only third on the list of great works of literature people want to preserve.

The Beatles grabbed the top spot in music. The second spot went to Robert Pattinson who stars in "Twilight," an overly screaming teenage girl would know. Funny, I didn't even know Pattinson made music. Michael Jackson was only third. I wonder how he would have felt about coming behind a guy whose claim to fame is looking like a vampire and having dishwashed hair.

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A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

Where to Stop Where to Go

Microtel Mactan's Christmas offerings

CHRISTMAS IS JUST AROUND THE corner and Santa's present has come a little early this year with Microtel Inland Resort Mactan's Christmas offerings. There will always be something for everyone from mouth-watering menus the whole family can enjoy, wellness packages, warm sports activities for the more adventurous, overnight rooms for the kids to frolic and an island city to explore!

Book that memorable holiday in advance from now until Oct. 31 and avail of these special rates: P1,998 per night for stays between Oct. 1 and Dec. 14 and P1,598 for bookings between Dec. 20 to Jan. 10, 2004.

Microtel is an international chain of hotels under Wyndham Worldwide with 300+ properties located in US, Canada, Argentina, Honduras, Mexico and Philippines. In the Philippines, Microtel is located in key destinations such as Baguio, Batangas, Binangonan, Mactan, Cabanatuan, Cavite, Davao, Palawan, Tarlac and soon to open in Mall of Asia. All Microtels in the Philippines are managed by Microtel Development Corp., the hospitality arm of the Pilarosa Group. For inquiries, please call (032)236-8888, (032)269-7171, (02)917-888-0800 or e-mail at mactan.sales@microtel.ph. You may also visit our website at www.microtel.ph/mactan.html.

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IN THIS CRUCIAL TIME, PLANNING IS AS IMPORTANT AS WHEN IT comes to holidays and special occasions. That's why at Hilton Cebu Resort and Spa they give rewards to those who make the effort to plan ahead to just enjoy the benefits of worry-free vacation. The holiday is just a few months ahead and now is the time. Hilton is also for that special holiday filled with family and friends. Book at the Hilton 21 days or more before your planned stay and their Advance Purchase rate gives you up to 25 percent savings. And since you've made a savings on your accommodation why not indulge a little more and treat yourself to their signature spa treatments that can surely melt your stress away. Whatever the occasion, whether you stay with them for your honeymoon, the Christmas or New Year's Eve celebrations or simply there to something for everyone at Hilton Cebu Resort and Spa.

Marco Polo Davao welcomes new GM

THE MARCO POLO HOTELS recently appointed Nigel Hunter as general manager of Marco Polo Davao, replacing Stanley Lau who returns to Marco Polo Gateway in Hong Kong, a British Australian national, Hunter has 28 years of senior management experience in 5 star deluxe hotels and resorts. He has held various positions in the Mandarin Oriental Group, Four Seasons Hotel, Sydney, and as general manager to Tanjung Pinu Resort in Langkawi, Malaysia. He is highly experienced with in-depth food and beverage knowledge and has over 10 years experience in executive management positions.

Hotel Kimberly Manila Cityscape Package

HOTEL KIMBERLY MANILA, THE FIRST AND ONLY BOUTIQUE boutique hotel in Malate, presents the Cityscape Package. Pamper yourself by staying in an urban haven and spend seven time-indulging-among many-city pleasures. The hotel unveils historical attractions, food establishments, night spots, shopping centers, and business districts, all within your reach. For a minimum stay of two nights in a superior or deluxe or premiere suite, enjoy this generous inclusive of breakfast for two persons. Rates start at P4,000 net. For reservations and details, call 521-0888.

Café Jaspreay to hold Grecian Food Festival

BEYOND CAFÉ BENITA, MANILA'S CAFÉ JASPREY CORNER, IS HOLDING A FIESTA WITH GREEK FLAVOR AND CELEBRATIONS. HOST OCT. 14 TO 25 , popular dishes of Benitard Bistro City in South Cotabato will be part of the restaurant's tasty snack and dinner buffets. To ensure their authenticity a guest homebaker-chef, Christine "Kring" Macion of Marina Grill, Cafe Jaspreay offers a free buffet meal for a PP5 person for every group of four before paying adults. Diners get a chance to splash in the hotel's 400-square-meter swimming pool with a day pass P4,000 in a single receipt at the restaurant. Prizes at stake are a Princess Cruise trip for two to Alaska or the Mexican Riviera or the Caribbean and two round-trip tickets from Manila to any European destination of KLM Royal Dutch Airlines. Call 705-1000 for reservations.

Spook-tacular nights at Lancaster Hotel

IT'S GOING TO BE ABSOLUTELY SPECK-TACULAR HALLOWEEN night at Lancaster Hotel Manila! Check out this Spook-tacular Halloween room promo with spine-chilling and enchanting surprises and giveaways for kids and the whole family. For only PP3,888 net, you can enjoy room accommodation with breakfast for two at Lancaster Hotel Manila. And not only that, you will receive two airport transfers to Thailand or Kingdom for two and tag-a-bounce to the 3rd Spook-tacular Kiddie Halloween Party at Lancaster Hotel Manila, 3 p.m. on Oct. 31. Enjoy free shuttle service to the Ortigas Shopping Malls for your shopping pleasures. Promo is valid until Nov. 30. Hurry! Book now. Prior reservation is required. For reservations, call 633-1918, e-mail reservations@lancaster-hotels.com, price and more.lancasterhotel.ph.

DUSIT THANI AWARDED TWICE IN A ROW

The iconic pair stayed at Shangri-La Hotel, Manila. Philippines was once again awarded as the Best City Hotel – Manila during the 2006 TTG Asia and Travel Awards 2006 at the Shangri-La Hotel in Singapore. Dusit Thani Manila was also awarded the Best Hotel within the Asia Pacific region that time this award is the neighborhood. Voted towards service excellence. Shown (from left): Orlando Gamonos, SVP, Dusit and Lead Principal Hotels and Resorts; Bill - Dusit Thani Manila during the 2006 TTG Travel Awards 2006.

Party with 'Authority' at Pearl Farm

SET OFF YOUR SOUL AND DANCE TO THE BEAT OF CLASSIC rock 'n roll this dining with Manila's multi-talented band, The Authority. Band members include Miguel Salvador on lead vocals, Nes can see over-watermelon the art of partying and dancing all night long! This event also promises ice-cold San Miguel Beer and Tanduay Distillers products, and unlimited Coca-Cola drinks and mixes, while sumptuous food will be provided by Pearl Farm's best chef. All these and more for only P1,500. Party starts from 8 p.m. and will end at 12 midnight. For ticket reservations and information, contact 236-8878 and 234-6001.

Renaissance Hotel's Peking duck promo

RENAISSANCE MANILA'S CITY HOTEL'S FINE CHINESE restaurant Jasmine is offering the ultimate treat in Chinese food lovers in an exciting promotion from Oct. 13 to Dec. 15. Any group, whether small or large, with a minimum consumption of P5,000 net, will be given a free order of Peking duck. Peking duck which will definitely be the meal's main attraction. The Peking duck will be served in two ways: crisp delicious skin wrapped in paper thin pancakes with spring onions and hoisin sauce and its meat chopped cooked with special spices and served on fresh lettuce leaf. The Peking duck promotion is offered for lunch and dinner. For more information and reservations, call the Renaissance Makati City Hotel, Manila at 811-6888.

Astoria's Halloween Anime Fever

IT'S A GRAND GATHERING OF ANIME MANIACS OF ALL ages as Astoria Plaza celebrates Halloween on Oct. 25, at 3 p.m. dubbed "Scared Fever", members may come as their favorite animé character like Naruto, Dragon Ball-Z, Inuyasha, Blood Fighter. For this year, Astoria Plaza line-up with cable TV's premier anime channel, Hero Channel, Dirty Free Programmes. There will be games and interactive activities in store for a more exciting celebration, fantastic giveaways and so much more. Always a successful event, Astoria Plaza's Halloween celebration not only has games, giveaways and mascots but yummy filling snacks as well. For only P425 will include all food, games and giveaways, parents are sure to make this Halloween celebration an unforgettable one for their kids. For reservations, call 521-1111, ext. 8304 and 8305.

Where to Stop Where to Go

What would you take with you in 2012?

From page E1

The answers for the art category were the most surreal of the bunch. The top choice was "Mona Lisa" by Leonardo Da Vinci followed by "The Last Supper" and Michelangelo's "David," but was the only category that wasn't influenced by "Twilight"—and probably only because Stephenie has never made any finger paintings public.

Until one, you could be thinking, it's just an online survey.

But the answers represent what this planet's population deems to be the most important pieces of our culture.

The answers can only mean two things...one, the world's Internet population is composed mostly of Stephenie Meyer fans, or two, our tastes in novels are spot on and stupid. I seriously hope it's the first one.

Sure, "Twilight" was entertaining...and I'm not just saying that to not "Twilight" fans won't throw rocks at my house, I actually enjoyed the books. But this survey is asking us to choose the only things we want to save from this world, the masterpieces we want to preserve, the things that will show the theoretical new world of what we were about, what we produced, the have we had to offer.

Vampire love

And as entertaining as it is, I don't think a love story between a teenager and a vampire is the best we have to offer.

Will the world end in 2012? Maybe...maybe not. One thing's for sure, I don't want this civilization to be known just as the civilization that spawned Stella Swan.

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MANO-TO-SO-ACTION MATCH NE MAY BE SEEN ON LCD SCREENS if tell by Eliad at the Aurora Grand Ballroom on the 3rd floor of One Tagaytay Place Hotel Suites. For only P600 per person (inclusive of VAT and service charge) guests will enjoy the perfect combo of big screen fight action and food-to-go-chit-chat. Pre-fight screenings start at 6 a.m. Seats are on a first- come first- served basis. Limited seats available. For more information contact the sales office at (02)818-1011, (02)818-1021 or the reservation office at (02)584-4311, (02)584-4145 SE, (0406)483-3611, (0920)9098974 or log on to www.onetagaytayplace.com.

Club Balai Isabel celebrates Oktoberfest

BAHAGIANA, MASUNDUCLUB BALAI ISABEL CELEBRATE OCTOBER fest in Talisay, Batangas on Oct. 24, 1 p.m. onwards. Club Balai Isabel is a hotel resort conveniently tucked away in the shoreline of Lake Taal and overlooking the majestic Taal Volcano in Talisay, Batangas. It is a place where you can relax, reminisce with nature and enjoy an active lifestyle. Club Balai Isabel's facilities include hotel rooms, villas and cottages, function rooms, exclusionistic swimming pools, and water sports facilities perfect for corporate outings and wholesome family activities. On its 2nd year, Club Balai Isabel invites shoppers with booths and stations to rock the stage and wow the crowd while they enjoy their beers and soak in the relaxing atmosphere of Lake Taal. Magnolia has recently launched the hit singles "Akap", "Tanan" and "Tanabata". Concert fans may avail of the 30 percent special discount on their overnight stay during the concert. This special rate is available only to deluxe suites, lakeshore villas, family cottages and family villas. Concert ticket is available for P1000 inclusive of lunch and snacks. For ticket sales and room reservations please contact the Balai Isabel office at (02)580-0000 look for Ferly Tingzon or the Batangas office at (043)726-0301, look for Belinda or Santos.

'Trick or 3'S' in Boracay

THE RESIDENCES AT BARAY'S MID BLUEWATER CARAVACAS are, however with a package set to thrill and delight. From Oct. 31 to Nov. 30, avail of "Trick or 3's" package and pay only half the price of the published rates on a minimum two nights' stay. Have enjoy this third night free. This package includes in-room massage for two, daily breakfast at Terrace Bar and Restaurant, 30 percent discount on green fee, overnight inventory shuttle service to "El Mall" and within the vicinity, and use of the private beach and swimming pool. Managed by premiere property management experts Quantum Hotels and Resorts, The Residences at Fantasyland Bluewater View Guest in Boracay dotes families and friends with their spacious bedrooms with air and serviced apartments. Premiere privacy is provided for those who value their rest and quiet, yet it is accessible to the nearest social hub frequented by island habitues. Then, there is the fabulous 18-hole par 72 world-class golf course that is designed to improve one's swing while letting it all out. For inquiries and reservations, call the Manila sales and reservations office at (632)738-0000, (632)738-0970 or log on to www.themiddlesexboracayandbluewater.com.

The Richmonde Grill's Dinner Exclusives

This October, a scrumptious and 09-inspired menu complete with appetizer, dessert and a choice of beer, wine or sparkling cocktail will be served at The Richmonde Grill for only P625 net. This exquisite meal starts off with the servings and mango-salad mixed in pomodoro and pesto sauce with parmesan cheese then comes on then the beef bourguignon with sumi vegetables on rice and white and shallots in demiglace served with corn croquettes and buttered spring vegetables or the pan baked salmon with wasabi-ginger sauce served with blessed rice and buttered vegetables, and finally the famous mini ensemble with vanilla ice cream to top off your delightful dinner. You can savor the Chef's Exclusives all day, every day. For inquiries or reservations, call the Richmonde Grill at (02) 814 10 10 or 638-7777 extension 3459. The Richmonde is located at the 2nd floor of The Richmonde Hotel, 21 EarthQuad Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

Directory of Related Establishments

The day I met a drunk driver

By Ruby de Vera

FOR THE PAST THREE WEEKS, I have been going on my every-day life with only one hand—or to be technical about it, nine fingers. My right thumb and part of my arm and hand are still in a splint. The trait of having opposing thumbs that separates humans from other mammals is taken away from me, albeit temporarily.

It takes an hour for me to bathe properly and another 20 minutes to dress up. Meals are an absolute affair as I can use with only one hand, and complicated food is out of the question.

The other night, a friend packed a shrimp for me and cut it to pieces. I wanted to cry at the table.

One formative night after a violin lesson I was walking in where the cabs were. I was at the sidewalk at a one-way street, when suddenly all I could see was the ground spinning as fast my brain hardly had time to register that I was rolling on the asphalt, stopping only when my head hit the bumper of a parked jeepney.

I sat up immediately disoriented while I looked for my things. People on the street turned to me, with everyone talking all at once how some speeding and swerving car hit me. I shrieked myself and found that I was bleeding—my head, face, and nose. Then an old man came up to me. "Are you the one who hit me?" I asked him point blank, still in disbelief that I was almost roadkilled. "No," he said feebly, "my son drunk!" "Slightly"? He reeked of alcohol.

The next few minutes when I was taken to the emergency room where they cleaned my wounds, gave me shots, and X-rayed me, were all a blur. I remember calling my family and friends who lived nearby because fortunately I was conscious and alert enough to keep my things with me. I was lucky I didn't have a concussion.

But "lucky" is relative. I had to suffer insane pain due to the wounds on my face—imagine someone pouring a hot iron on your cheeks. White hot, searing, and throbbing pain. Yes, it was that bad. I also had stitches on my head, and countless bruises and lacerations on my body. One of my knees on my hip had all the colors of the rainbow at one point.

I looked like a horror movie. Most of all, my thumb is fractured, and the surgeon had to put screws, a metal plate, and a pin inside my hand so I can regain normal functions of my thumb.

While confined in the hospital, I ate drink only through a straw because I couldn't close my food properly. My mother had to bathe me, her parents child, because I couldn't do it on my own. I had to sign my name on documents with a thumbprint of my left hand, because my I'm right-handed and it was just my misfortune for my dominant hand to be injured.

But the biggest hurdle is trying not to panic when I see cars reach with memories. I'm afraid to walk on the streets, even more to cross them. I don't trust stoplights anymore, and I can't let alone ride a trike.

Physical and psychological damages I would never have were it not for someone who had too much to drink and still decided to drive home.

Alcohol is a depressant, that's why people often drink to "relax." The "relaxing" effect we perceive is actually a decrease in emotional. Vision, hearing and other senses are affected too, with muscle coordination. That's why when people are drunk they slur and stumble.

Now put a complicated machinery I took no care) in the hands of someone not in total control of his abilities, and someone is bound to get hurt.

In their 2009 publication Global Status Report on Road Safety, the World Health Organization reports that in 2006, 51 percent of Metro Manila's total fatalities caused by road traffic are pedestrians. The law on drunk driving is also rogue, as there is no set limit for blood alcohol content for offending drivers. Although there is a seat belt law, only half of the drivers remember to put theirs on. These data are only derived from reported cases.

It is also predicted that by 2020, road traffic injuries would be the third leading cause of death worldwide. But it doesn't have to come to that, because the factors leading to road accidents are actually preventable.

The first is driving under the influence of alcohol, followed by seat belt use, and road and vehicle design.

Thankfully, I am alive and will be fine. I still have a four inch scar on my hand as a reminder never to drink and drive. But others are not so fortunate, too many lives have ended all too soon in the hands of drivers who drank too much and sped the way home.

Meanwhile, I have to learn to wear the scissors again, a universe where I can cross the road safely without fearing for my life.

super LIFESTYLE

Everyone likes musicals again because of 'Glee'

By Bianca Cervanyi

EVERYONE'S TALKING about "Glee," the new comedy-drama about a high school choir, which has made it cool again to like musicals. But don't take it as a straight-to-TV ripoff of shows such as "High School Musical." "Glee" is not your candy-coated Disney fare.

Like many own sitcoms, it has its high school stereotypes: popular jocks and cheerleaders, nerdy outcasts, overachieving brow-is-ills. It also has its own issues...unwanted pregnancy, eating disorders and homosexuality. But far from being preachy and predictable romp through high school, "Glee" appeals to just about everyone simply because it keeps it real...with a wicked sense of humor.

And, there's also the music.

In only a month, "Glee" has managed to snatch the attention from "Fear Itself" and "Gossip Girl." Its unexpected popularity skyrocketed as teens and adults search out the new episode every week since it started airing in September.

The New York Observer echoed the sentiments of early skeptics..."We really found ourselves falling in love with 'Glee.' If you would have told us in May [when the minor episode was aired after American Idol] that we'd be legitimately excited to see reboot this series gone over the course of season one, we're not sure we would have believed you."

The success of "Glee" can, primarily be attributed to its music. Fresh arrangements of familiar songs showcase stunning vocal performances and hit-to-watch dance numbers. An even bigger hit on iTunes than it is on TV, "Glee" is responsible for reintroducing classic pop and broad-

BEYONCE P3

Revenge of the 'Gleeks'

From page F1

way music among younger viewers. Recently, 13 songs from the "Glee" episode sole were on the iTunes top 200 downloaded songs, and earned four spots on the Billboard Hot 100.)

And to differentiate it from "High School Musical," which banked on cheesefully pop tracks, "Glee" doesn't stick to one genre.

Recent songs include Journey's "Don't Stop Believing," Queen's "Somebody to Love," Lady Gaga's "Poker Face" and Britney Spears' "Toxic."

"Glee" fans are so enthusiastic about the show, a large group of fans call themselves "Gleeks" even after doing an excellent rendition of Rob Zombie's "Dragula" on the show.

Guest stars such as singers Josh Groban and Kristin Chenoweth gave it added wattage. But even the regulars' performances on the series are becoming popular because they can sing.

The show's definitely got people talking. "I love the fact that they got real singers and actors, professionals and newbies alike," says DJ Pepito of the UP Concert Chorus. "The bottom line is, it's all about talent! I love the fact that the characters are imperfect and real. I also love their song renditions—boogie!"

Fellow choir member Raquel Mallari says, "I love that I see it reflecting real world school's priorities—athletics over the arts. In schools out there, music is not arts programs. It's the breeding ground of high-caliber talents!"

Student Marjorie Mateo says, "It's like watching Gimme Mia," but duo tries as a various artists compilation." Meghan Gangnet of Sportsplex agrees: "I'm a 'High School Musical' diehard."

"Glee" fans are so enthusiastic about the show, a large group of fans call themselves "Gleeks" even after just seven episodes—and there's so much more to look forward to. In the coming weeks, more musical guest stars are expected. Whitney Houston reportedly declined to appear, but rapper Ice-Nicki's.

The possibilities are endless, but it's probably safe to assume that in the coming months, people will randomly break out into song.

E-mail the author at bmoon@starjournal.ph

New reasons to watch TV

Neophyte shows try to recast drama, comedy, detective genres

By Adrian Oy
Contributor

Sense of "Community"

"Community"
The formula: Shades of "My Name is Earl," but set in a college populated by a wacky ensemble cast
Hey it's: Ryan Seacrest lookalike Joel McHale (TV's "The Soup") as the lead, along with Chevy Chase ("Hallmark Lampoon's Vacation") and John Oliver, who was a correspondent on "The Daily Show" with Jon Stewart
Creative minds: Dan Harmon, co-creator of "The Sarah Silverman Program"

The study groups I used to be part of were rarely productive study-wise, but always fun. The new sitcom "Community" gets the fun part right, but it's as unobtrusive in the sense that it's one of the wittiest and smartest comedies on an idiot box.

Joel McHale plays Jeff Crocket, a recently disbarred lawyer with a degree that came from "Columbia," rather than "Columbia," to a result, the first episode opens with him scheming up a plot to cheat his way through a local community college, only to be sidetracked as he falls for fellow student Britta (Gillian Jacobs), and hops at winning her over, Jeff sets up an imaginary study group that becomes a real one when a classmate, Abed (Danny Pudi), invites more classmates.

Desperate to boop up the illusion that he created the study group for legitimate reasons, Jeff gives a lop-in-progress speech where he calls the groups "community."

The speech sticks, you well in fact, and the study group becomes a fixture in the daily academic life of the gang.

McHale is a standout, mainly but since he is paired with a different member of the study group each week, to hilarious results.

The other students—the 40-year-old single mom, the high-school dropout, the aging, loose it all losing all the republican brain-in-one-hemisphere (inside joke/nerd-out), and they in jaded high school star athlete—are all so well-crafted that the interaction between them and McHale is genuinely funny.

Some of the funniest scenes are when all are just sitting around the study table, bouncing lines off each other.

A good part of the jokes are still self-aware metahumor, with characters comparing themselves and their circumstances to movies, other TV shows, and genres and conventions. It's trippy when you consider how McHale got his big break skewering those cliches), too.

It's good that the cast has genuine chemistry, because as early as now, the show's formula of "Jeff deals with wacky new problem; interacts with his study group, learns a new life lesson," is flat becoming predictable. The lessons are never rammed down viewers' throats, but they are so obvious they're becoming annoying.

Notwithstanding that, as a freshman comedy, this is already heads and shoulders above some of its older, overrated counterparts. Make sure you become part of the "Community" now.

"FlashForward" motion

"FlashForward"
The formula: Take the Sci-fi Genesis of Season 4 of "Lost," but subtract the island and apply it to everyone in the world (try it: Joseph Fiennes ("Shakespeare in Love")/Benjamin John Ellis ("Harriet the Spy")/Joseph Fiennes ("Shakespeare in Love")/Benjamin John Ellis ("Harriet the Spy") and "Star Trek"), talk about unlikely shots.
Creative minds: Veteran "Star Trek: Voyager" and "Star Trek: Enterprise" writer/producer Ramsen Bolga and the team behind the great (if Matt Ruggendorf and David S. Ehrer

THE CAST of "Community"

When everyone on Earth blacks out for a minute of daydreams, no months to, to the future, people react with mixed emotions. Some are happy seeing themselves land dream jobs. Others are shocked seeing themselves in pain. Some they never imagined, such as cheating a loved one. There are those who don't see anything but blackness, leading them to believe they'll be dead by then.

FBI Agents Mark Benford (Joseph Fiennes) and partner Janssen (John Cho) are part of the task force assigned to figure out what exactly caused the flash-forwards. Involved is in a unique position because his flash-forward gives him a glimpse of himself working on the case, giving him a special insight and a few clues into the nature of the phenomenon.

The show throws a lot of valid conspiracies in "Lost," but it does improve on its spiritual conceit in a few areas. For one, the show has a great sense of forward momentum, as just introduced. Whereas the first season of "Lost" was wandering and not introspective, there feels like actual progression in each episode of "FlashForward."

This is helped out by some well-crafted cliffhangers that really make you want to catch the next episode, something that has not been seen on TV since the first season of "Heroes."

"FlashForward" is also helped by the fact that there's a definite clock to the show, specifically April 29 or 30, 2010, which is, depending on time zones, the date people flash-forwarded to. One gets the feeling that the show's creators have a definite ending in store and know how to get to it. That ending, which actually cannot be said of actualized dreams.

The show is accessible even to people tuning in and out, thanks to copious in-show recaps, but there are times when regular viewers may feel the show is wasting their like time. There's only so much repeated exposition one can take from the way it's introduced to make the characters sometimes seem like idiots too. Also, while the world-setting is quite realistic, tackling what exactly would happen if terrorists on Earth blacked out at the same time Don't just say that, show it.

Despite these few caught issues, the viewer will have to suspend disbelief.

The show feels a bit like "Lost" lite, but that's not entirely a bad thing. For those who've wanted to watch the island epic, but could never spare the time, "FlashForward" could be a good alternative. If anything, however, TV "handbread" though, the strength of the flashbacks and the general premise might keep you glued, but really there's another fate out there.

THE CAST of "Flash Forward"

Olympian story for young adults

Book 5 of Rick Riordan's reinvention of Greek mythology has just been released. Do we have another 'Harry Potter' in the making?

By Rust S. De Vera

CAST A MORTAL EYE ON that book cover: it's the silhouette of a young man holding a sword while riding a winged horse. Depending on your age group, you still think of either Perseus from 1981's "Clash of the Titans" or the animated title character from Disney's "Hercules." That sounds as vestigial to the iconic power of the image on the cover of Rick Riordan's "Percy Jackson & the Olympians Book Five: The Last Olympian" (Disney Hyperion Books, New York, 2009, 381 pages), except that the character rising behind the airborne hero is New York's Empire State Building.

The juxtaposition is the prize as the end of the "Percy Jackson & the Olympians" saga. Riordan's fresh reinvention of Greek mythology The series is built around the titular character, a troubled teenager who discovers he is a demigod (the son of a human and Poseidon, the Greek god of the sea) when he meets other demigods at Camp Half-Blood. But everything starts to go down the River Styx when Percy finds out about a prophecy foretelling the destruction of the Greek gods when a demigod—most likely the 12-year-old Percy—turns 16. Uh-oh.

The first four books ("The Lightning Thief," "The Sea of Monsters," "The Titan's Curse" and "The Battle of the Labyrinth") in the series each chronicle one year in Percy's life and the smart, contemporary incarnations of the various Greek creatures and beings made for funny, lilting reading. Ostensibly a young adult series, Rick Jackson and the Olympians proved transcendent, gaining readers from all possibilities. That feat—albeit his performance sparked claims of the series being "the next Harry Potter." That tag goes beyond sales, as the series' storylines and feel vibrated at a similar frequency. That sensation gets stronger the longer the Percy Jackson series clicks on.

Percy, joined by the satyr Grover Underwood and Annabeth Chase, finds himself in a race all over the mythical world to conquer the machinations of the resurrected Titan Kronos, who is gathering an army to take Olympus. At the end of "Labyrinth," Percy has rescued the Mastbreaker for his Uncle Hades. In the context of the big Poseidon-Zeus war, we say that Percy is his favorite son and Percy finds out a risky way to defeat Kronos...but leaves the readers in the dark.

"Olympian" is the Readers's Book that gathers all the different strands of information from the previous books and uses them reunited in a decadent fashion. It rewarded readers who've been with the series from the beginning, but it also gave new readers a clear idea of the series' premise and how it works. And Percy earns it.

With all the mysteries Riordan has loaned us in the previous books, there's no way "Olympian" is going to be a streamlined narrative. That isn't a perception, it's a smorgasbord, with sure bets among other storylines up to the (somewhat) ending. Some of the answers are satisfying (the epic identity) while others are trickier (the prophecy's meaning). There is just so much happening that the series' best quality—its updating of the old legends—is severely limited. It shouldn't be a surprise that Riordan takes the most epic of Greek material as inspiration for the book's climactic scene, and does it well if a bit hurriedly.

What it means is that "Olympian" ironically is the most exciting of the five Percy Jackson novels but also the weakest, the energies filled "Labyrinth" remains the best, but it sufficiently fulfills the prophecies—and the promise—of the series, making it the best young adult series since Harry Potter. Rooftop accountants now that Disney's film rights and energy for readers who will miss this particular universe, but not Rick Riordan is set to give birth to more new heroes in this big Greek drama. Chris Columbus is directing the motion picture adaptation, hitching in early 2010. But "The Last Olympian" is a worthy opportunity to bid a hero's farewell to Percy and perhaps lead readers to ponder whom the next Percy Jackson will be.

Available in hardcover from National Book Store.

THE COLORS OF *Christmas* AT SM HOMEWORLD

Earth-toned Christmas tree.

Christmas wouldn't seem like Christmas without a tree, which is often the centerpiece of holiday decorating during the season.

Evergreen Christmas trees are classics, because these most resemble the traditional trees we grew up with. But today, colors find more avenues for self-expression at SM Homeworld, the Christmas store.

The colors of contemporary Christmas trees range from sophisticated black and elegant silver gray to wintry white to all natural cream, brown, and coffee to Victorian pink and avant-garde red.

Bring the joys of Christmas to your home with trees and ornaments from the Homeworld Department of all SM stores.

Add sparkle to your black tree with dazzling, shimmering ornaments.

Red Christmas tree give a bold spin to the holidays.

Classic cream Christmas pine tree with glitters.

Winter white Christmas tree with glitters.

Elegant gray Christmas tree.

HOME WORLD

wreaths & swags

Items available at the Decor Section

SM DEPARTMENT STORE

Out-of-this-world October Fun at MOA!

Selecta Kids Universe at MOA Now Open for Adventure!

Get ready for take off—kids are off to a space adventure at Selecta Kids Universe, the latest kid-friendly attraction from the country's top mall! SM MOA teamed up with Selecta to develop a new concept for an exciting play area—a special space inside the mall that will be dedicated to pure fun, enjoyment, and interactive learning for children of all ages.

With awesome features such as the Cosmic Kidz Gym, a towering space gym to challenge kids to hours of active play, a Comfy-Bird Experience™ area for toddlers and younger children, exclusive high-tech attractions such as the X-Rider motorbike, GameBlast, and Tom's World, Sponge and Ben10-themed areas, a Toy Kingdom outlet, and The Creamery, a special diner with a menu designed just for kids, Selecta Kids Universe is the ultimate play paradise for little boys and girls! What's more, the whole playground is under MOA security, which ensures that children can play safely inside the mall premises.

A visit to MOA with the whole family, just like Selecta ice cream shared over family meals, makes every occasion more special with unforgettable bonding moments. Let your kids experience the wonders and delights of Selecta Kids Universe at MOA and see for yourself why no other mall comes close!

Adults must be accompanied by kids!

SELECTA KIDS Universe

FLIP & BRAWL!

Hot Toy Action at MOA October 16-18, 2009

Get ready to flip and brawl with two of today's hot new toys: Tech Deck and Bakugan! Test your flipping and brawling skills at the Flip & Brawl booth at SM Mall of Asia on October 16 to 18.

Participate in the three-day tournament of both toy kingdom and Tech Deck to win exciting prizes from Eurotrike Distributors Inc., the official distributors of these cool toys!

Bring over the kids this October to MOA, where we have exciting events lined up just for them. The numerous retail stores and restaurants on the mall are perfect for some shopping and dining that the whole family can enjoy. Drop by the awesome events from the premier theme destination in the country and see for yourself why no other mall comes close!

October ain't over 'til you get your dose of **SHOCKTOBER** at Nickelodeon's **THE CLINICK** where strange things await the brave.

Come in your creepiest costume, bring along your pumpkin pail, and get your spook on!

How to score tickets:

From October 1 - 31, get one (1) FREE ticket for a minimum purchase of Php 1,000 of any toy (inclusive of Halloween items) at participating Toy Kingdom and Toy Kingdom Express stores.
One ticket is good for 2 persons.

Participating stores: Toy Kingdom in Mall of Asia (LGF, SM East, SM Megamall and SM Southmall), The Podium and Toy Kingdom Express inside Department Stores: SM Mall of Asia, SM Megamall and SM Southmall.

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IN THIS ISSUE

■ **Celebs' new starrers** give viewers reasons to celebrate /G2

SATURDAY Special

Editor Nestor U. Torre • Assistant Editor Rita P. Avila

STREEP: Flawless performance.

Streep is butter to 'Julie & Julia's' cinematic bread

By Nestor Torre

THE IRRESISTIBLE MERYL STREEP IS the butter in the bread that is "Julie & Julia," Nora Ephron's latest cinematic offering. The actress, who plays the celebrated culinary icon, Julia Child, gives a flawless, effortless comic performance that breathes new life into the cunning of the word scrumptious. Superlatives for a flimsy performance are fondly uncommon, but this time, the Oscar-winning actress surpasses even herself.

STARS/ G

Listen up as SpongeBob and friends share their tales from under the sea

Hang out with the Bikini Bottom Gang!

glorietta	Greenbelt	Town	Market! Market!	TriNoma	MARQUEE
Nov. 6-8	Nov. 15	Nov. 27-29	Dec. 4-6	Nov. 19-22	Nov. 13-14

Celebs' exciting new starrers give moviegoers reasons to celebrate

CAMEO. Thandiwe Inks the world's stingiest and most cold-hearted man.

By Nestor U. Torre

FILM BUFFS ARE EXCITED about some new movies that are set to play in theaters this year. The most unique and eagerly awaited productions include:

James Cameron's "Avatar," the "Titanic" director's 3D saga about human clones of aliens. Can Cameron's latest film approximate the exceptional success of "Titanic," still the most popular film of all time?

The latest "Sherlock Holmes" movie, directed by Guy Ritchie, transforms the duke sleuth into a more exciting and passionate investigator, thanks to large measure to Robert Downey Jr.'s endearing characterization. Even he can't magically dry and erase assistant, Watson, has been revitalized by Jude Law.

Animation techniques

Talk about transformation. Jim Carrey has been reincarnated, first by motion-capture and animation techniques into Ebenezer Scrooge, the world's stingiest and most cold-hearted man.

Any new movie by Clint Eastwood is cause for celebration, so we look forward to viewing "Invictus," a film on Nelson Mandela.

Now animated features on view are led by "Toy Story 3." And, if you're a diehard Michael Jackson fan, you can look forward to seeing "This Is It," a film edited together from extensive rehearsal footage of his would-have-been series of special shows in London. The "rehearsal" film opens worldwide on Oct. 28.

Personally, we're eager to see our two Meryl Streep starrers "Julie & Julie," where the avowed star plays pioneering TV chef, Julia Child, and "It's Complicated," where she's paired by no less than Steve Martin and Alec Baldwin.

Other admitted champions with new starrers to delight them lists include Hilary Swank as Amelia Earhart, Nicole Kidman in the musical, "Nine," Robin Williams and John Travolta in "Old Dogs," George Clooney in "Up in the Air" and Matt Damon in "The Informant." Reasons to celebrate, indeed.

Chivvy rewrite

Lovably Comedy King Dolphy has a new starrer in the works that we're looking forward to viewing most. Jose Marie Caverne-published the film "Manay Ho" Chivvy movie in this year's Metro Film fest, and Ago Medina fails in penning up for another

AVATAR. Cardplus Cameron's 3D saga approximate the success of "Titanic!"

DOWNEY AND JUDE. Pairup celebrated sleuth and his assistant, respectively.

TRAVOLTA AND WILLIAMS. Team up in "Old Dogs."

Sarbar, Nicole Kidman in the musical, "Nine," Robin Williams and John Travolta in "Old Dogs," George Clooney in "Up in the Air" and Matt Damon in "The Informant." Reasons to celebrate, indeed.

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If we had our druthers, it would be great if new films could also be made soon starring Nora Aunor, Vilma Santos, Lolita Rodriguez, Pilar Pilapil, Gaby Fuentes, Rosanna Roces, Sidsid Lirondo, Jean Mari dwellers, Mark Gil, Amy Austria, Rosa Rosal, Rosemario Gil, Tirso Cruz III, Lorna Tolentino, Elizabeth Oropesa, Lauren Guilleny, Johnny Delgado, Mat Ranillo III, Charlie Davao and Bembol Roco. We need to benefit from their proven acting prowess—sooner.

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Everybody loves a winner

By Rolfe Cervantes

CHANCE, LARA AND RICHAN. Bring Pinoy pride to the international arena.

THE PHILIPPINES IS A SMALL nation. So, it isn't surprising when we get outside when one of our own succeeds in the international arena. Never mind if that success comes in the realm of sports, art, beauty pageants or performance, we experience singular joy when our kababayans make a mark in foreign lands. We rejoice as if we ourselves have achieved that success.

In 1961, Gemma Cruz was the talk of the town when she captured the first of our four Miss Universe crowns. Naturally, the self-effacing Gemma Pijuan became everybody's beloved muse when she brought home the second crown from the same pageant, followed by Melanie Marquez and, most recently, Lara Quigaman.

Starring role

Our first Miss Universe, Gloria Diaz, became known as the muse Gloria, while Margie Moran—who scored Miss U in dethrobiler, became simply Margie—especially after her debut starring role in "Oh, Margie Oh!" Before we had three top winners, we were content with the beautiful runner up named Lolalee.

Anthony Pangilinan, the current holder of four boxing world crowns, is simply known as Pacman in the four corners of the archipelago—and even his mother, Dionisia, has become a household name.

We talk about Jose Leo, especially after the bell-voiced belongs conquered West End and Broadway. And, she has become a cultural icon after winning the Tony and Olivier Awards. Charice Pempengco has become known here after she won the admiration of Ellen DeGeneres and Oprah Winfrey.

We're also tickled pink when our kababayans marry international celebrities: Manilla's chic entrepreneur Isabel Preysler—a popular Manila debutante who flew to Madrid to study and later on met and married popular balladeer, Julio Iglesias.

The stunning movies was once cited as one of the most beautiful and love-devoted women in Spain. After the divorced Iglesias, she married into Spanish royalty and continues to be in the news as one of Madrid's most photographed socialites. She is the mother of singing hunk Enrique Iglesias.

Comedies

Academy Award winner William Holden was married to Brenda Marshall, a movies born in Negros Occidental. Lou Diamond Phillips calls his Filipina mother, Nancy Tia Carrere is part Filipina, and Bob Arbuckles includes in Pinoy mother in his seven nationalities.

The very first Miss Universe, Finland's Armi Kuusela, married the Aggie-driving Columbia University-schooled Virgilio Hilario, while the first Miss International, Colombia's Stella Marquez, married an Acapulco hotel mogul.

British royalty

Not too long ago, it was reported that a rather tycoon Filipina married into British royalty, but she'd rather lead a life away from the limelight and continues to shun publicity.

Linda Bustos, a UP Law alumna, married Reginald Lewis, reportedly the most successful African-American businessman when he was alive. The migration lawyer continues to be a significant presence in relevant Philippine projects, while running her late husband's multimillion-dollar company.

Wake-up call

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

AT THE HEIGHT OF JOHN Ondoy, a man and his three sons marooned in the middle of Marikina bridge. The man said, "Let's swim to the house and leave the car here. Our home is nearby!" The scared drivers opted to stay. The man swam, reached his house and rescued his sons, using hands. The driver, on the other hand, perished when the car was washed away by the raging waters. This wake-up call comes with basic lessons.

1. You would has no genius choice. Expensive cars, homes and other buildings are flimsy straws that are subject to destruction. So, always seek shelter in the Supreme Protector Who is everyone's ultimate hero and Well-wisher.

2. All material things are perishable.

Knowledge

3. Disasters can strike anytime, anywhere. Prepare spiritually to face such calamity with courage and wisdom. When it's time, we can make our own national fear because of our knowledge about our renewal nature and home.

4. Disasters are wake-up calls that make us realize the important things in life. In the face of death, fashion accessories, parties or movies have no value. Anything temporary can be easily forgotten.

5. Dear brotherhood is manifested during a crisis. The words that divide us—religion, politics, political parties, company hierarchy or social status—crumble down as we experience the same difficulties. We are one family, and we need to help one another.

We can grow from any crisis in our journey to self-realization. We profit from the valuable lessons we learn from our losses.

Streep is butter to 'Julie & Julia's' cinematic bread

From page 66

STREEP (WITH TUCCI, LEFT). Portrays celebrated culinary icon.

"Julie & Julia," however, isn't just about America's "favorite chef," Julia Child died at the age of 91 in 2004). It's also about Julie Powell (Amy Adams), an aspiring writer stuck in a dumb-but-job-cubicle-type-in-Queens existence by working all 524 recipes in "Mastering the Art of French Cooking," the seminal cookbook Child authored with Simone Beck and Louisette Bertholle.

Powell, who did all the cooking in the course of a year and blogged about it at the same time, is a real life blue-ted phenomenon—her blog became a book that is now a debatable film.

Director-screenwriter Nora Ephron based "Julie & Julia" on "My Life in France," the autobiography Child wrote with Alex Prud'homme, as well as Powell's blog and subsequent memoir. The movie jumps from post-WWII Paris, where a discretion-challenged Child develops passion for passion for French food and cooking, to post-9/11 New York, where an equally clueless Powell finds direction and purpose in Child's cookbook.

Loving husbands

"Julie & Julia" attempts to draw parallels between the lives of these two women and manages to do so minimally—at least, culinarily. Both are struggling to find an outlet for their creative passions, and both enjoy the full support of loving husbands (Stanley Tucci plays Paul Child, and Chris Messina is Eric Powell).

In the movie's generally, however, you can't help but start noticing how much richer and more talented one half of the movie is compared to the other.

Streep's tall, statuesque, stellar voiced Julia Child, who's slightly addled yet unconquerable in a Paris that's still colonizing the end of World War II, is simply more interesting than Adams' character, who lives in a shabby place in Queens and can't seem to get over it. Sometimes, she just seems to be too self-involved to invite sympathy.

While no Meryl Streep, Adams is a good actress in her own right, but not even her charms can overcome the fact that she's not given much material to work with.

Still, watching the film is an enjoyable way to spend two hours and Streep's performance is not to be missed. It's also worth noting that Tucci, who was also with the great actress in "The Devil Wears Prada," complements her perfectly.

Like a dream

If "Julie & Julia" leaves you feeling a wee bit unsatisfied—as though a sumptuous feast reinstead post entrée before you were done with it—try cooking an omelet like Julia Child would when you get back home. It'll be the pujo like a dream.

Confounding twists and turns on TV

By Nestor G. Torre

A NUMBER OF TV SHOWS have perplexed viewers with the unexpected twists and turns they have been taking. On "Lovers in Paris" recently, Pablo Pascual's character threw viewers for a loop when he acted in an uncharacteristically cruel manner, leaving JC Concepcion high and dry in Nice, France, after a verbal altercation.

Wealthy couple

He got nicked off with her when a French man viciously accused her of being a prostitute, running off the wealthy couple Pablo was trying to impress in that they would invest in his business.

The radical plot twist robbed us the wrong way because the Frenchman was a relative stranger, so why should anybody, Pablo included, believe him over JC's pitiful protestations of innocence?

Worse, Pablo's shock and anger prompted him to leave JC all alone on a deserted road in Nice in the middle of the night, potentially exposing her to untold danger and horrors—definitely not the way for an otherwise well-possessed and mature man to behave.

The cruel shift in Pablo's characterization was unsettling because it violated the law in terms of empathetic male-lead characterization. Yes, male characters on TV don't need to be cold, thoughtless and unpremeditated, but not to the extent of exposing their leading ladies to grave danger.

That could really ruin some viewers off, and in romantic dramas of this sort, that will mean dis. Even after the apparently and mistakenly timed "forgive" but unpremeditated termination. The audience won't—so, goodbye, rapunzky.

Another unexpected twist happened on "Pinoy Big Brother," where after only a day or two, one of the twins in the show opted to exit voluntarily, for some personal reason or other related to his job to the "real" world.

Selection process

His unexpected decision was still puzzling, because it exposed a potential flaw in the talent selection process. You would think that, after undergoing thousands of determined hopefuls all over the country, the show would be able to find gifted, interesting and strong-willed people who were prepared to remain on the show until they got "evicted," you're mistaken.

The departing contestant's decision made a lot of emotional sense to him, but not to the show's viewers, whose focus on the idol's progression was disavowed much too early in the game.

"LOVERS IN PARIS." Radical plot twist robbed viewers the wrong way

STREISAND: Her latest album debuted at No. 1 on both US and UK pop charts.

Streisand's twin feats

LONDON—BARBRA STREISAND achieved the feat of topping the US and British album charts simultaneously on last record, "Love Is The Answer," turns no No. 1 on Sunday. The 67-year old performer topped the album charts here for the first time since 1993, her sixth album to take the top spot, the official UK charts company announced.

Streisand is also the first artist to top the US chart in five consecutive decades. "I was told that 'Love Is The Answer' is No. 1 in the US and UK—and I want to share that honor with all of you, my fans and friends, who have made that possible," she stated. "You'd think that getting the news that you're been No. 1 in five consecutive decades would make you feel old, but that makes me feel young."

Compilation

Madonna's greatest hits compilation, "Celebration," stayed at No. 2, while Tennessee rockers, Brothers, fell from the top spot to third place with "Brand New Eyes." The 1950s-'60s heroes, Cliff Richard and The Shadows, were fourth with "Reunited," while blues rockers, Chris Rea's new album, "Still In For To Go," entered the chart at No. 8.

Meanwhile, 18-year-old London rapper, Chipmunk, entered the singles chart at No. 1 with "Oopsy Daisy" while British girl group, The Saturdays, were in at No. 2 with "Forever Is Over." AFP

Spielberg . . .

Viewpoint A4

Crichton was one of our greatest storytellers, who expanded our imagination with his books, films and television shows," tweeted Spielberg. "With the 'ER' and 'Jurassic Park' series, I enjoyed one of the best collaborations of my career. With 'Time Line,' 'Prey,' 'Timeline,' 'Sphere,' 'Eaters of the Dead,' 'Disclosure,' 'The Lost World'—some of which he directed, as well.

Berg also worked on the screenplays of Spielberg's "War of the Worlds" and "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull." He additionally wrote and directed "Ghost Town" for DreamWorks last year. Spielberg is finishing "The Adventures of Tintin: The Secret of The Unicorn" before starting on to his remake of "Harvey." Reuters

Novels

A Harvard medical-school graduate, Crichton published deeply researched novels—typically about technology run amok—for 40 years. A dozen of his books were adapted into films, and he also wrote original screenplays—among them "Westworld," "Runaway," "Looker" and "Westworld"—some of which he directed, as well.

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One family member falling ill to cancer is all I can take. That's why when I heard that I could protect Mom and myself from cervical cancer, I made sure we got protection that lasts. Cervical cancer is the 2nd-highest killer cancer of women in the Philippines. It's caused by HPV, a virus that up to 80% of women will get in their lifetime. Cervical cancer is a cancer we can do something about today. I'm not leaving my family open to any more heartache. Neither should you.

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3 STARS AND A SUN TAKES UP THE FIGHT AGAINST CERVICAL CANCER

'A JOURNEY HOME'

Toni Gonzaga, company inspired by bad-boy-gone-good tale

MANALO, BASCON, CRUZ, GONZAGA AND CARETE. Cast as members of a dysfunctional family in Paul Soriano's domestic drama.

By Rito P. Asilo

TONI GONZAGA AND DIRECTOR PAUL SORIANO HAD MIXED FEELings when the domestic drama, "A Journey Home," was premiered at Megamall two Saturdays ago, as Pepeng was just starring to make his destructive presence felt.

What's so special about the film? "It's an unusual project—it took three years to make. It's experimental, and moviegoers certainly need something like this in these trying times," Paul told us before the screening, then tried to make light of the situation. "Sad, it's the only movie premiered during a typhoon."

To play her part well, Toni said she had to jump out of her comfort zone. Indeed, her character, Gayle Santos, is the antithesis of the kooky, tomboy newscaster she usually portrays in Star Cinema's bubbly comedy. "My character is very different...and, this time, the movie isn't about me."

Detachment

True enough, in the production, Toni is an outsider looking in as her character tries her best to patch things up between her husband, Rafly (Jhett Bascon), and his estranged father, Danny (Bodjie Cruz), who some time after he finds out about his wife's passing. Unfortunately, Rafly doesn't want to have anything to do with his father. His detachment is understandable: his dad, now jobless and sexually ill, abandoned the family 20 years ago.

Soriano's full-length feature debut—which examines the dynamics of sin and forgiveness in a family setting—deserves to be seen for the relevant themes it tackles and the significant lessons it imparts.

On the minus side, some scenes feel slower than they should be, and the movie could benefit from judicious editing of overabundant voice-overs. Another hitch is the caricaturish depiction of some characters...like Lauren Reynaudo's abusive, two-timing husband character, which is much of a contrivance to be believable.

The youthful director and his production crew collect honors to soften the alienating impact of some preachy/lofty moments, or to lighten up dragging sequences. Uso effectively juggles pathos, theatre verve and comedic irony to communicate his bad-boy-gone-good themes. His scenes catch the relandscape. Tio Pacil are a breather from all the doom and gloom.

Bascon is initially succinct in his grasp of the character of the bitter son, but eventually proves to be the role and shines in some highly charged dramatic moments. Similarly notable is newcomer Abbel Acosta, Thalia Cabico aka Cha-cha, who delights viewers with her natural spunk and perceptive delivery. Well love to see more of the precocious tyke.

Deceptively simple

And, Toni? On surface, the actress' portrayal looks like a leisurely walk in the therapy park. But is, her role is deceptively simple but crucial, because Gayle is really the no-clue heads all the characters together—and she holds the key to Danny and Rafly's salvation. Plus, her calming, radiant presence makes all sense of the dissensus of the dramatic scenes.

Spielberg takes on Crichton's 'Pirate Latitudes'

LOS ANGELES—IT'S A 7-year-old boy's dream come...Steven Spielberg, Michael Crichton and David Koepp meeting on how swashbuckling dinosaurs to marauding pirates. DreamWorks studios has acquired the film rights to the action-adventure novel, "Pirate Latitudes," which Crichton never got before his death in November 2008. Spielberg, who directed Koepp's adaptations of Crichton's "Jurassic Park" and "The Lost World," will produce the film and possibly direct.

Adaptation

Koepp has signed on to write the adaptation. "Michael was a scrupulous researcher and one of the most innovative writers of our era," noted Koepp. "To have worked on one of his novels was a privilege. But to work with them seems like a dream."

"Latitudes," which takes place in 1665, is about a daring plan to infiltrate Port Royal, one of the world's richest and most notorious cities, and steal a Spanish galleon filled with treasure. HarperCollins will publish the novel, which Crichton's estate found in a completed manuscript after his death on June 24.

Crichton and Spielberg also collaborated on the long-running medical drama, "ER," which they launched together in 2004. "Michael

SPIELBERG. There to focus from rampaging dinosaurs to marauding pirates.

SATURDAY Special

For the Red family, filmmaking is in the blood

EIGENMANN AND GARCI. Toplist Jon Red's black comedy, "Beerhouse."

By Rica Arevalo

AT LAST, RAYMOND RED'S AN-ticipated full-length feature, "Himpapawid (Manila Skies)," is screening at the Cinemanila International Film Festival this month. Aside from his film, two members of the Red clan are in the festival: Raymond's oldest son, Mikhail, has "Hasang" in the shorts category, while brother, Jon, competes in the Digital Lokal section with "Beerhouse."

Mikhail shares, "I was so spired by an actual event experienced by my father and his film crew in the middle of the night, as they were heading home after filming in a remote location, they saw that the path ahead was blocked by a mysterious bird flame. I used this situation as premise for a commentary on the desolation of man."

Passion

Raymond realized that his passion for filmmaking did run in the blood when his son showed keen interest and talent in the visual arts. He notes, "He loved drawing and conceptualizing comic stories."

Jon shares, "We all loved watching movies. When we were kids, our drawings were not silly images, but a series of picture-with-stories. And, my brothers and I would even remount TV skits." His film, "Beerhouse," which was produced by Joel Torre and stars Ryan Eigenmann, Arthur Quinco and Glenn Garci, is a black comedy set in a bar filled with colorful characters.

"My intention was to 'marry' indie and mainstream aesthetics. Being a low-budget project, the film needs all the help it can get to reach a wider audience. Cinemanila is a good venue for this experiment," says Jon.

Credits

How important is family support to a budding filmmaker? Mik replies: "It's crucial. If you look at the credits of 'Hasang,' many of my relatives are acknowledged. I got them involved. Their support defines me as a filmmaker."

Raymond's "Himpapawid" will have its world premiere at the Tokyo International Film Festival, which is timed from Oct. 17 to 25. He adds, "My intention is to leave a legacy of true cinema that reaches lives by being worthy of its audience. Don't expect to be awarded recognition."

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LG With You!

LG Electronics Philippines extends its deepest sympathies to all those affected by Typhoons Ondoy and Pepeng. We salute the courage of our Filipino countrymen in these trying times. As our way of helping our communities rebuild their lives, we are launching LG With You!

From October 19 - 31, 2009, 9:00am to 6:00pm, we are offering FREE unit cleaning and repair* to all LG customers in the Greater Manila Area (GMA). You may visit us at the following venues:

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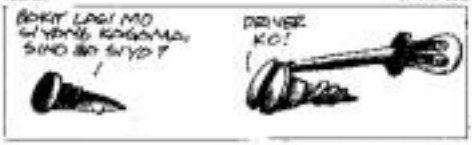

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		4						5
8						1		2
1			4			7	3	
				8	9		6	
	7						2	
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		3	7		8			1
4			2					8
5						6		

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

2	5	7	4	3	6	9	1	8
4	9	1	8	5	2	6	3	7
8	6	3	1	9	7	4	5	2
9	1	2	5	6	4	7	8	3
6	7	8	9	2	3	5	4	1
5	3	4	7	8	1	6	2	9
3	4	9	6	1	8	2	7	5
7	2	6	3	4	5	1	9	6
1	8	5	2	7	9	3	6	4

Miriam, Maricar hit their thespic stride

By Nestor U. Torre

THE LOCAL TV-FILM ACTING SCENE HAS been numbered by a general lowering of thespic standards, with even acting "greats" being compelled to turn in shoddy, lethal (melodic) "underacting" performances, instead of delightful and deeply-felt portrayals, just to give viewers their nightly popcorn fix. Happily some upbeat portrayals help to arrest the downbeat spiral, so let's celebrate them today.

Miriam Quiambao first made a name for herself as a beauty queen, then as an underwear-scanty challenge dancer host on TV in the deeper-but-narrow "Kimmy Dora," she took on a third career challenge—acting...and the good news is, she more than passed muster.

Physical assets

Miriam's performances in "Kimmy Dora" impressed us because she bravely went against type. Instead of playing it bouncy-queer lively, she opted to depict Kimmy's battered insecurity and general frustration, who runs constantly at the receiving end of hot-tempered Dora (Eugene Domingo's inimitable).

More than she's gotten her thespic feet wet, so to speak, Miriam should start change gowns and do a drama. To also do well in that genre, she should work on adding texture and color to her speaking voice.

We believe that she has no problem with the emotional and intellectual aspects of performances...and she's decidedly beautiful, to boot—so, with greater responsiveness to her voice, she should do very well, indeed.

We also like the way that another relative newcomer, Maricar Reyes, has energized and "matured" her career after hopelessly finding herself involved in a "scandalous" controversy early in her career. From goodness, people have given her a second chance to prove her worth—and she's proceeded to do just that.

In her current telefilm, "Lovers in Paris," Maricar plays "only" second female lead (to Ai Ai delas Alas), but she turns in an effortlessly portrayal that manages to build in conviction.

Character

Maricar plays the "credibly hot-tsart" girl-friend of lead Pedro Penduko's (Dingdong) and her outcomes in every match is the point. Incidents she doesn't come across as a villain in this piece, at least not yet, so it's character could sometimes be left holding the long-tongue baby, at least.

What makes Maricar's performance in "Lovers in Paris" attractive is the fact that she's evidently cast in her role. She does come across as a well-bred, stylish and smart young woman...unlike many other female stars who ineptly play-act the part.

We trust that, with their good showing, Miriam and Maricar will go on to bigger and better things, showing the way for other aspiring female talents to similarly hit their variable and find their niche in the generally crowded, but occasionally glittering world of local show biz.

QUIAMBAO AND REYES. Their upbeat portrayals help arrest the downbeat spiral of local acting standards.

Home makeover mania at LRI

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

THE HOME MAKEOVER sale you've been waiting for is finally here. Visit the LRI Design Plaza at 2314 Monzon Drive E., Bel-Air II, Makati City from Nov. 5 to 17. The place is your one-stop lifestyle center in the metropolis. It boasts of stylish, high-quality furniture and accessories, decor rooms, exceptional galleries and design studios. Plus dining room menus and a luxury suite—all and in one roof.

Fashion items

Pamper yourself with the latest fashion items or get ideas for a new look for your home or office—from cozy chairs and wall accents to tabletop accessories. Then, add a spiral to you to your art collection.

The Home Makeover Sale is also a great way to jump-start your holiday shopping. Look for your favorite items—you just might find them on sale at LRI.

***

The Manila Seminary Inc. mission Dawn is assisting Bombaya's homeless dwellers. The *City and the Amazing Symposium Foundation* stands to children in the evacuation center every Sunday. Drop off donations at *our studio, Rm. 227, LRI Design Plaza.* E-mail mandy.navasero@yahoo.com, or call 898-1767.

ONE of the showrooms in Makati's one-stop lifestyle center.

Spoof show turns tables on celebrity obsession

LOS ANGELES—WATCH OUT, BRITNEY, Octomom, Jon Paris! Shows devoting your time are piling up fairer than celebrity magazines in a hair salon, and they include a stage musical and scattered TV programs. "Popzilla," the latest show to declare open season on Hollywood celebrities and their reality TV loving cousins, will soon premiere on MTV.

The scathe newcomers are putting a new twist on the public's appetite for star-driven news. Nearly 55 million Americans tuned in celebrity gossip site in May, the digital tracking firm ComScore, stated.

"POPZILLA." Show aims to cheapen the public's appetite for star-driven news.

Segments

"Popzilla" was conceived to match the fast-paced, often sneaky celebrity TV news show, "TMZ," whose stars ambush, "Hey!" out, gets about 10 million visitors a month. It features segments of one minute or less, but instead of breaking news like "TMZ," the show uses hastily animated sketches to poke fun at the world's top celebrity stories.

"We love to the interviewers ego, and shows that never would have been reported in the '60s are all over the media now. So, when Obama calls Kanye West a jackass, it's all over the media," quipped comedian Brett Thomas, who created the series. "So, you get an interesting interface between a bizarre celebrity segment, who makes shows, and the president of the United States—and that's worthy of a joke," Thomas explained. Rumors

'Tales of the Manuvu' at CCP

From page B4

Tuesday to Thursday at 10 a.m. He will be accompanied by the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra under the musical direction of Redel Dela Cruz.

The concert is for the benefit of the House of Refuge and the World Association for Psychosocial Rehabilitation. E-mail reservations@gmail.com, or call 8930456-8273.

'Halloween II'

It's that time of year again, and Michael Myers has come back home to take care of some unfinished family business. Unleash-

HORROR. Coco returns to her unfinished family business.

ing a trail of terror that only horror maniac Rob Zombie can conjure up. Myers will stop at nothing to bring closure to the events of his tortured past. But, the town has an unlikely new hero—if they can only stay alive long enough to stop the unstoppable.

Concert at the Park

At 5 p.m. tomorrow Concert at the Park presents the united talents of the Ateneo de Manila School (ADS) Sinotown and Girl-Scouts students, in celebration of the 60th anniversary of Boys to Philippines-Alphonsus relations.

'Dolores'

Lito Casaje's indie feature, "Dolores," will be premiered at Market! Market! Greenbelt 5 at 7 p.m. today, and will aim to be screened at 4 p.m. on Oct. 21. Call 902-2958. Casaje's film is competing in the ongoing Cinemanila Film Festival's Digital Lokal section.

At Starmall

At 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. tomorrow and Oct. 22, Oct. 28, get up close and personal with bouncy queen, Rich Asuncion. On Oct. 21 and 28, chances are limited in addition for Sembreak '09.

'Sampu ng Demonyo'

Rico Hizon-Gutierrez's horror film, "Sampu ng Demonyo," will be premiered at Robinsons Galleria Cinema 8 on Oct. 20. The film stars Rhaiden Hermano, Hannah Reyes and Richard Quan.

Movies on TV

On HBO today at 9 p.m., "Bobbing Hill." Tomorrow at 6:45 p.m., "Under glass." On 19 at 7 p.m., "Betrayal." On 20 at 11 a.m., "An Officer and a Gentleman." On 21 at 11:30 a.m., "Betrayal and Bonds." On 22 at 5 p.m., "Time Cannot." On 23 at 9 p.m., "The Other Boleyn Girl."

'Tales of the Manuvu' at CCP

A NEW PRODUCTION OF Dexie Nicholas, Bienvenido Lumbera and Alexis Tioseco's acclaimed "Tales of the Manuvus" will be staged by Ballet Philippines on Oct. 23, 24 and 25 at the CCP. The pop-rock-opera ballet tra-

MONTAGE

tions engages, Ballet Philippines artistic director Lisa Macuja-Elizalde, Halo Halo Dancenter and Al Tacbobian, and the Malditang rock band, with BP's leading lights dancing to choreography by Paul Morales. Call 551-8225 or 893-9999.

'Libero' at PICC

On Oct. 25 at the PICC, the world-famous Libero boys' choir performs a unique repertoire of songs that includes classical pieces by Beethoven, Gregorian chants and contemporary new age music. The concert's proceeds will fund the Foundation for Disadvantaged Children. Call 564-0630.

SIDNA. Stars in Ballet Philippines' pop-rock-opera ballet.

Nickelodeon invades more schools

"Nick Takes Over Your School" has "invaded" campuses in Metro Manila, Cagayan de Oro and Cebu—and you! decided would be next! This month, students of St. Paul's College QC, Immaculate Conception Academy, St. Anne's College of QC, San Beda College, Alabang, Philippine Cultural High School and St. James College of Parañaque are all revved up for the biggest slime invasion yet, complete with hilarious games, activity booths and fun prizes and surprises. Log on to www.nickpha.com/news.

'Battle for Terra'

In the new sci-fi family adventure, "Battle for Terra," playing exclusively at SM Digital Theaters starting Oct. 21, Gaelic Jings Boong their warriors would invade a new planet. The CG-animated action adventure is voiced by Luke Wilson, Evan Rachel Wood, Amanda Peet and Danny Glover.

Wilson plays a doomed human child who befriends the rebellious Terrian, Mala (Wood). Could their suddenly friendship convince the two planets' leaders that war is not the answer?

Joffrey Jeturian for Meycauli Classic

Acclaimed director Joffrey Jeturian has an abiding love for

JETURIAN. Abiding love for movies—and great coffee.

WILSON. Voices lead character in sci-fi animation.

movies—and for Meycauli Classic, which he describes as "exactly how I like my coffee—moderate to home of taste and aroma, not over-but strong not too much."

Meycauli Classic is made from carefully selected beans that are blended and roasted in production. Wish its new Pure Coffee Caprese process, it is able to capture the goodness of the coffee bean's pure taste and aroma.

Bo Cerrudo at Teatrino

Bo Cerrudo stars in the one-man, "A World of Love," at the Teatrino.

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- one (1) or more SM Green Bags plus a single receipt purchase or four (4) cinema tickets from SM Cinema
- one (1) or more SM Green Bags plus a P100 minimum purchase of tokens from the Amusement Centers

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- Single Receipt Purchase of 4 cinema tickets = 1 coupon
- P100 single purchase of tokens from Amusement Centers = 1 coupon

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SMDC

Miley Cyrus, Erik Santos take musical detours in latest albums

SANTOS (WITH BUCKMAN, LEFT). Overflowing soul.

By Rito P. Asilo

MILEY CYRUS IS GROWING UP—JUST IN the seven-track EP "The Time of Our Lives," the 16-year-old superstar shakes off some of her saccharine pop sensibility and strides as she steps up the rock sound for her growing adolescent concerns.

This done, the sound is stolen, the voice fuller and more self-assured, and the themes are edgier than her usual teenage love-and-party musical confections. The album contains only seven cuts, but their diverse beats and sleek arrangements are guaranteed to attract pop-music enthusiasts.

Young love

The Jonas Brothers join Miley to a live version of "Before the Storm." If you were drawn to the dreamy sound and ethereal feel of "Strawberry" "Bottom of the Ocean," "the soaring "Obsessed," which tackles the exhilaration and confusion of young love, will delight you.

Another ballad, "Where I Look or You," is bound for radio-airplay glory not only because of its authentic quality, but also because it's one of the tunes pegged for Miley's soundtrack Nicholas Sparks-penned romantic drama, "The Last Song," which he wrote specifically for her.

But, the track that will keep listeners rocking is the rock-fueled and groove-heavy crowd-pleaser, "Party in the USA," Miley's highest charting single to date, as well as the hefty title track, "Time of Our Lives," and her kitchen cover of Ashlee Simpson's "Gifting and Receiving."

Tribute

On the local recording scene, Erik Santos also takes a musical detour on "The Jim Brickman Songbook," in which he pays tribute to the man behind the indelible pop-jazz favorites, "Shoreline," "Love of My Life," "Destiny," "By Heart," etc. Most notable in the 12-song repertoire are "If I Just Believed" and the heartwarming "The Gift."

In the liner notes, Brickman compliments Erik for the texture of his voice and his "overflowing soul." He likewise shares his respect and admiration for Pinoy performers: "I've worked with so many artists all over the world, and the Filipino talent usually stands out. I've had remarkable collaborations with Sharon Cuneta, Martin Nievera, Regine Velasquez and Lea Salonga—and those were some of the most unforgettable collaborations of my career."

CYRUS. Amps up the rock sound for her growing adolescent concerns.

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2 JULIE & JULIA	2 THE ECHO	2 THE UGLY TRUTH
3 ECHO	3 G-FORCE (3D)	3 ECHO
4 THE UGLY TRUTH	4 SURROGATES (TAMI)	4 JULIE & JULIA
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Visayas • Mindanao

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GALLERIA

1 JULIE & JULIA
2 RED CLIFF
3 NOT FORGOTTEN
4 THE UGLY TRUTH
5 THE ECHO
6 G-FORCE (Digital 3D)
7 [illegible]: SANGLAAN
8 BOYLETS
9 IN MY LIFE
10 FAME

ERMITA

1 THE UGLY TRUTH / FAME
2 JULIE and JULIA
3 RED CLIFF
4 G-FORCE
5 NOT FORGOTTEN
6 ECHO
7 BOYLETS

METRO EAST

1 G-FORCE
2 RED CLIFF
3 NOT FORGOTTEN
4 FAME
5 ECHO
6 SURROGATES / THE UGLY TRUTH
7 IN MY LIFE
8 [illegible]

NOVALICHES

1 RED CLIFF
2 [illegible]
3 SURROGATES
4 ECHO

PIONEER

1 ECHO
2 NOT FORGOTTEN
3 RED CLIFF
4 G-FORCE

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GALLERIA Cinema 6

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MOVIEWORLD

STA. ROSA

1 RED CLIFF
2 THE GAMER
3 ECHO
4 IN MY LIFE

LIPA

1 WHITE OUT
2 G-FORCE
3 THE FINAL DESTINATION
4 THE UGLY TRUTH

DASMARINAS

1 ECHO
2 THE GAMER
3 RED CLIFF
4 IN MY LIFE

IMUS

1 [illegible]
2 ECHO
3 RED CLIFF
4 THE GAMER

STARMILLS

1 IN MY LIFE
2 HORSEMEN
3 ECHO
4 [illegible]
5 G-FORCE
6 THE FINAL DESTINATION

ANGELES

1 THE FINAL DESTINATION
2 KAMASUTRA NIGHTS
3 ECHO
4 HORSEMEN

TACLOBAN

1 I LOVE YOU BETH COOPER
2 G-FORCE / THE UGLY TRUTH
3 THE GAMER

BACOLOD

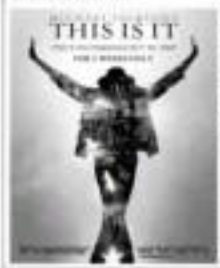
1 G-FORCE
2 THE GAMER
3 THE FINAL DESTINATION
4 HORSEMEN
5 MY SISTER'S KEEPER
6 THE GRUDGE 3

ILOILO

1 G-FORCE
2 THE FINAL DESTINATION
3 SORORITY ROW
4 HORSEMEN
5 [illegible]
6 THE GAMER

GEN. SANTOS (NOW OPEN!)

1 SURROGATES
2 ALIENS IN THE ATTIC
3 MY BLOODY VALENTINE
4 SORORITY ROW



Michael Jackson's
THIS IS IT is all about Jackson
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MOVIEWORLD

THIS IS IT

New prospect, challenges for versatile tandem

By Nestor U. Torre

WHAT'S UP NEXT FOR Angelica and her Yuga after the success of their first film? Standard show biz logic suggests that the hit tandem will go on to topbill other movies, but some insiders think that the tandem's will have a relatively short lifespan.

Principle

They even believe that, after the conclusion of "Hair to the Hall," the game show Ogie Alcasid and Michael V (aka Angelina and Yuga) are currently hosting, the hit tandem will be phased out. Why the abrupt departure? It may have something to do with the principle: Quit while you're ahead.

If that prediction does pan out, it'll be an anachronistic show biz denouement. In the biz, the opposite often happens: Has been stars have had to be forcibly packed out of the scene long after overstaying their welcome.

But then, Ogie and Michael aren't your usual fresh-cake hasbeens. They have a lot on their plate, as the relatively early departure of their Angelina and Yuga subjunctions won't be that big a deal for them—since there are enough fans out there who will insist on reminding the hit tandem's lifespan!

Meanwhile, Ogie has a new partner on GMA-7's "S.O.P." show to rival "Startoon" that features the hit songs he's composed. The former undercover cop has said that Ogie is one of the most versatile entertainers we have. Aside from interpreting other people's songs, he writes his own hit tunes, not just for himself, but for other popular singers, as well.

Rogues' gallery

Michael V is similarly versatile, but in different ways. As his work by TV show attests, he's a master of impersonation, with a veritable rogues' gallery of crazy characters in his repertoire. And, in tandem with Ogie, Michael periodically comes up with some of the wittiest, satirical and snarkily songs we've heard.

What's up next for Michael and Ogie, regardless of what happens to Yuga and Angelica? If we had our druthers, we'd want to see them team up a notch in the executive department and do the music and lyrics for a new stage musical. Now, that's a particularly pleasant prospect!

Asbley Tisdale sheds Disney image in latest album

LOS ANGELES—HER PLATINUM **white hair is long gone, replaced** by silky smooth, dark brown locks. Her, that shows's soup young girls' fresh, recognizable "High School Musical" star, Ashley Tisdale, at restaurants and asking for autographs.

Tisdale's role as Shanny Evans, an over-the-top teenager who will step at nothing to get what she wants in Disney's "High School Musical," has given her a huge following and allowed her life forever. And, the 24-year-old actress is expanding her career to new projects, including her role in the recent movie, "Aliens in the Attic."

Tisdale continues to work on TV, where "HSM" was a huge hit on the Disney Channel before he was just been released.

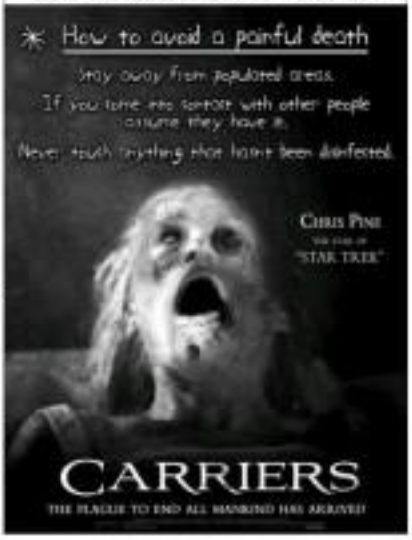
On the downside, her growing popularity has meant Tisdale has a constant wall of paparazzi following her around. "I don't have a private life anymore—that's gone out the door," quipped Tisdale, but she has no the clear soap her career.

Needy family

In fact, Tisdale's instinct for comedy is opening doors for her. She is making further inroads in TV as the voice of the character, Caroline, on Disney Channel's animated "Phineas & Ferb," and she will appear in an upcoming episode of ABC's "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition." Judging here, Ty Pennington, build a home for a needy family. Readers

coming a movie—and she's even producing. Her singing has kindled the interest a chart-topping sound-by-mixer, and her second studio album, "Guilty Pleasures,"

GET INFECTED on OCT. 21



A 'Hangover' party . . .

From page 4A

the LA fashion scene in a big way at the 90s's, Griffin Contemporary last Thursday evening.

Hutchins herself a regular at 90's fashion flock, plays a woman who turns out to be the mommy of the baby in the closet. The actress said in what, at first, she felt uncomfortable doing a breastfeeding scene, but eventually, she felt at ease, thanks to the relaxed vibe on the set. Others also met our friend, journalist and former Miss Universe Margaret Gardiner.

Unusual things

Apparently, that fun, loose environment was due in large part to Todd Phillips, the type of director who can easily convince actors to do unusual things. Todd was able to **persuade Ed to actually lose a tooth**...it was an implant that Ed had when he was 15. Todd said the implant was smaller than Ed's other teeth. Ed agreed to have the tooth removed...well, he isn't sober. Afterward, Todd arranged for Ed to see the "greatest dentist in LA" and have a better-looking implant.

Looking it in his own column was Mike Tyson, who appears in the movie and gets the guys to sing with him the refrain of Phil Collins' "In the Air Tonight."

Justin Bartha, who plays the groom, is hurtured that his real movie is with Catherine Zeta-Jones. In "The Informed," Catherine, playing a newly divorced New Yorker, gets it on with her much younger neighbor, and that would be lucky Justin. Bart Freundlich, Julianne Moore's husband, directs the film.

Musical numbers

Jon Chesnutt and The Dan Band, who perform the risqué "Candy Shop" in "The Hangover" wedding party scene, provided the musical numbers at the bash.

Nice to be outdoors. Fell out on the baby guard and sang his "Stick Song," also from the soundtrack, while he tickled the ivory keys. Instead of Heather draping herself on top of the piano à la Michelle Pfeiffer in "The Fabulous Baker Boys," one of those fake white stallions served as Ed's mount.

Practice Bros' party personality didn't end at the penthouse pool. Downstairs, as guests availed for their cars, a police-car (sic) figure prominently in the movie), with its emergency lights flashing, appeared on the driveway. The groom had a fun time pretending to be driving the car or being arrested.

As guests got into their cars, there was one more surprise awaiting them: A tiger lurked in the back seat! Some barked out, thinking they got into the wrong car. But, it was their car, alright, and that was indeed a tiger waiting in the back—only, it was a huge, plush toy.

Email wmpadre_NHS@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Manila Reporter," on http://blogs.inquirer.net/manilareporter/.

SHANG CINEPLEX

1) G-FORCE
2) JULIE & JULIA
3) ITALIAN FILMFEST 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
4) RED CLIFF
5) FAME

Shangri-La Plaza

8th ITALIAN FILM FESTIVAL

SHANG CINEPLEX CINEMA 3

FREE ADMISSION

Justin Bartha, Heather Graham, Ed Helms and Zachary Diker Silverstein

A 'Hangover' party with Mike Tyson, a tiger and chickens

LOS ANGELES—THERE WERE chickens everywhere. And, this was the rooftop pool lounge of a hip, posh hotel in West Hollywood.

Welcome to the party recently thrown by Warner Bros. Pictures to celebrate the box-office success of "The Hangover" as the No. 1 R-rated comedy of all time. The chicken-era—well, they were like ones—were there to remind us of that and cue in the raunchy comedy. In one memorable scene, Ed Helms' Stu Price, missing a tooth, wakes up in a raunchy Caesars Palace hotel suite, and one of the first things he sees is a white-feathered, chicken-walking animal.

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

Zach Galifianakis' Alan Garner wakes up, too, then heads to the toilet—and while pooing, he sees a tiger and runs away screaming, providing an unusual wake-up call for Bradley Cooper's Phil Wenneck. He hoped Siberian Stew, also brought in a tiger as this top floor oasis of The London West Hollywood Hotel. We scanned the poolside area for an orange cat prowling to the breathtaking party venue that overlooks Sunset Blvd. and the hills. No sign of a tiger.

Baby in the closet

As folks who saw "The Hangover" know, what follows after the three guys wake up with a terrible hangover and find not only a chicken and a tiger, but also a baby in the closet, is a funny version of "Mommie" that's set in Las Vegas. The doctor even discover a naked Asian guy in the trunk, who seems to have flown into the face of Bradley Cooper.

"I still wake up in cold sweat every night," Bradley joked to us when we asked him if he'll ever recover from the "trauma" of a male Ken Jeong (Mr. Chow) landing into his face, twinkle and all. Earlier, Ken told Jones and me, our guests, fashion designer Oliver Tolentino and his business adviser, Andrew Cavaliero, that they did 40 takes of that scene. So, we're not surprised if Bradley really does have nightmares about that scene to this day.

Heather Graham, who plays a stripper who gets snatched in Stu's Mini, (and he doesn't remember getting hitched at all), asked Oliver about his shop on trendy Melrose ave. Oliver was taking a break from preparations for the closing night presentation of his spring/summer collection for the Downtown Los Angeles Fashion Week, to say write this, Oliver was to make his debut in

A HANGOVER 2

COOPER (right), with Mike Tyson.

HELMS sings "Stu's Song" with a plush chicken as prop.

SATURDAY Special

Nothing is 'Impossible' for Natalie Portman

TORONTO—NATALIE PORTMAN BE-gins in "Love and Other Impossible Pursuits," playing a second wife and grieving first-time mother grappling with the thorny complexity of family dynamics.

The Don Roos–helmed film showcases the accomplished performance is somewhat lost so, hampered by a structure that (mind-)bends the proceedings only to follow it ultimately finds its footing, but it's Portman's skillfully executed turn that deserves pursuit by a distributor who knows its way around an awards campaign.

Based on Ayelet Waldman's Manhattan-based novel, the tart dramedy wastes little time in setting up the strained relationship between Emilia Greenleaf (Portman) and her precocious stepson, William (Charlie Tahan), the product of his father Josh's (Scott Cohen) previous marriage to the seemingly perfect stepmother Carolyn (Lisa Kudrow). But, if her being regarded in certain circles as a home-wrecker might be explanation enough for her glib view of the universe, there's a deeper reason for that emotionally aloof defense mechanism.

Increasing void

The death of the 3-(by-old) child she had with Josh has left an increasing void in her life that threatens to swallow up everyone else who dares draw her. While this might sound like awfully heavy stuff, Roos has a proven gift for finding humor in unlikely places, most notably (and still most successfully) in his 1998 directorial debut, "The Opposite of Sex."

Adapting that balance is not the problem with "Impossible Pursuits"—rather, it's an often-confusing series of subtle flash-backs early on that sometimes makes it challenging for the viewer to sort out the past from the present.

When the film clicks into gear with the time shifts and takes a more linear approach, the film settles into a more focused and affecting groove. But, while he draws fine work from all concerned, including Debra Monk and playwright-actor, Michael Cristofer, as Emilia's parents, it's Portman whose turn simply can't take your eyes away from—and not for the obvious reasons. With her brittle, risk-taking performances, Portman officially has gonne into her potential as an actress of commanding depth and versatility. Reuters

PORTMAN. Commanding depth and versatility.

'Transformers 3' confirmed for 2011

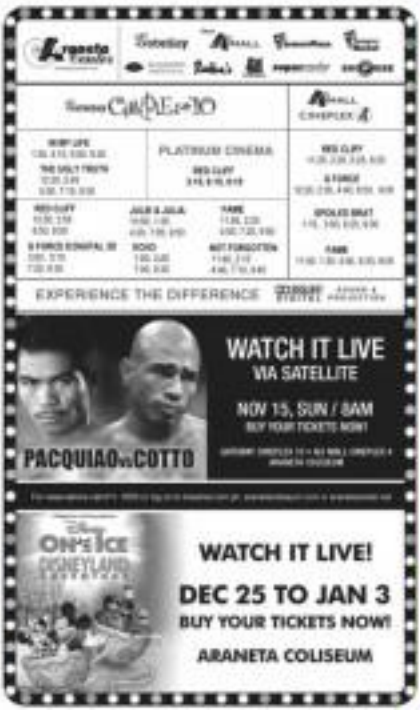
LOS ANGELES—Reeling a complete lack of suspense, director Michael Bay recently announced that he will shoot a third "Transformers" film, whose release date has been brought forward by exactly one year to July 1, 2011.

Shia LaBeouf and Megan Fox are slated to return to the Paramount/DreamWorks project, as is Ehren Kruger, the screenwriter of this year's hit sequel, "Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen." The first two films have grossed more than $1.5 billion worldwide.

Torpedos

"It's official: We have a great 'Transformers 3' story," Bay said on his website. "Today is Guy Dies." Paramount's summer 2011 is shaping up to have a number of tentpoles. Marvel Pictures' "Thor" and "First Avenger: Captain America" hurn on May 20 and July 15, respectively. Reuters

FOX AND LABEOUF. Megan Fox returns to blockbuster franchise.



"G-FORCE." Predictions guinea pigs an superspies.

Furry creatures get Disney's 3D treatment

By Rachel Torre

IF FILMMAKERS CAN TAKE THE idea of rats in the kitchen, rats in outside seat, make it sound on its head and produce an adorable animated movie ("Ratatouille"), then surely it should be easier to create charm and laughter from inherently cute guinea pigs who like happen to be superspy types equipped with fancy gear and commando skills. You'd think so, anyway.

The fella behind "G-Force," the latest 3D animated feature from Walt Disney Pictures, just couldn't seem to come up with a good enough story however—and, when you don't have an interesting talent to fall back on, you're in trouble. Still, not even the cutest, most heroic balls of fur can save the day. Directed by Hoyt H. Yeatman Jr., the movie is very grim and offers laughs enough, but not as focus to makes would have you believe.

Still, it will likely go down well with the under-10 crowd who are just looking for lots of action, furry creatures, and 3D gimmickry but, then parents and older siblings may find it only mildly entertaining.

Secret project

The film focuses on the exploits of three special agent-trainable guinea pigs and one mole—Darwin (voice: Bruckwell), Blaster (Tracy Morgan), Juarez (Penelope Cruz), and Speckles the Mole (Nicolas Cage). The guinea pigs and other small animals (including flies and cockroaches) are all part of a federally funded secret project headed by the shaggy but affable Dr. Ben Kimball (Zach Galifianakis).

The animals have all been trained to infiltrate and gather information from places unreachable by humans, but unbeknownst to them, the FBI just doesn't consider the program important.

In order to avoid getting shut down, the crew has to prove that they have what it takes to be special agents, so they embark on a mission to secure access to the secret files of Kilmister appliance king, Saber (Bill Nighy), whom the government suspects of having plans for world domination.

However, things don't unfold exactly as planned—and the team ends up behind glass in a pet store. More commotion ensues, but they still manage to save the world, anyway.

Heartbreaking no endless scenes of fur parcel noises—one featuring a tire and two guinea pigs is a subject—"G-Force" has a curiously dragging feel, perhaps because it's hard to root for the rather flat characters, or because the danger simply doesn't feel immediate. But, watch out for appliances morphing into fighting, killing machines a la "Transformers," and for some nifty 3D effects.

Hugh Jackman, Daniel Craig sell out on Broadway

NEW YORK—HUGH JACKMAN AND Daniel Craig, best known for playing big-screen action heroes, Wolverine and James Bond, have drawn record ticket sales for their play "A Steady Rain," but the play itself drew mixed reviews after opening night.

USA Today raved that the two actors put in "stellar turns," but The New York Times' verdict was "Big names, little show."

The pricey dialogued had the play broke the record for the highest weekly box office gross for a commercial production on Broadway raking in $1.17 million in the week ending Sept. 20. Craig and Jackman are among the big-name stars producers hope will boost sales on Broadway at critics-be-damned.

The play by playwright Keith Huff was a hit in Chicago before being brought to Broadway, where Jackman and Craig portray two Windy City cops, Denny and Joey, offering different accounts of a harrowing event that changed their lives.

Locker room

New York Times critic, Ben Brantley wrote that the play "is probably best regarded as a small, wobbly pedestal on which two gods of the screen may stand in order to be worshiped." He added that the restraint he saw the play's actors "likely expressed the feelings of many in the audience when she said: "If only the play had been set in a locker room locker room, where the characters might frequently change clothes."

New York Post critic, Elisabeth Vincentelli, said Jackman was "totally appealing," but insisted as a self-destructive trunkhugger. "Craig, his upper lip swallowed whole by a police-issue mustache, fares better and single-handedly lifts up the show," Vincentelli wrote. "Craig and Jackman were clearly eager to appear together onstage. Too bad they picked a freaky speed car for a vehicle."

Lesson

Daily News critic, Joe Dziemianowski, said the British and Australian actors "ooze confidence and charisma," but the play "is a stark and modest work that's all talk and no action." He said the play underlined a harsh lesson: "Whatever one says reading the phone book into an event. But, that doesn't guarantee a wholly satisfying experience."

-Inside p.

JACKMAN AND CRAIG. Proving across-action-to-stage drama.

Michael Douglas tilts thespic experiment in his favor

Hugh ...

Elyza Gaudiano of 3006 Turkey was more generous: "Shall's briskly shoulding script has its clichéd and cumbersome, but Jessup and Joey are drawn with such early wit and unpretending compassion that Sara's never-kept fakin. It's hard to imagine a better vehicle for two actors who clearly don't need impressionable characters to deliver grand performances," she wrote.

Portrayal

Atchison, 40, an Australian who starred in Hollywood hits such as "Gillian Origins," "Wolverine," his second outings in blue Stark before, relaxing a "Star—Brooklyn's — top actress for the promotion of singer/songwriter," Hiro Allen, in "The Boy from 16," in 2004.

Craig, 46, has a strong record on the London stage, but is making his Broadway debut. He is best known for playing British super spy, James Bond, in the box-office hits "Casino Royale" and "Quantum of Solace." "A Steady State" runs until Dec. 6. Reuters

By Hector U. Tiara

MICHAEL DOUGLAS DISHED plays the good guy in his big screen element, but he opts to go for a darker character in his latest headliner, "Beyond a Reasonable Doubt." In the process, he risks being upstaged by the crime thriller's younger leads, but he's able to tilt the thespic experiment in his favor—especially when it becomes clear that the movie's plot and theme are not what they initially seem to be.

In "Beyond A Reasonable Doubt," Douglas plays a high-profile District Attorney with mandatory elections in the courtroom that have made him a hot prospect for governor in the coming elections.

Rise to the top

His D.A. is such an outstanding political creature that he can't allow anything to get in the way of his quest to take rise to the top. So, he does everything he can to counter a young defendant (Jesse Metcalfe) accused of the brutal murder of high-profile murder case.

Despite his cunning and legal brilliance, Douglas' character has his work cut out for him in countering the crusading reporter's accusations, because the crusading journalist (Jesse Metcalfe) has cleverly baited "evidence" to link him to the latest murder being investigated by Douglas' cop colleagues.

DOUGLAS: Battle of wits and egos.

So, the film soon shapes up as a battle of wits and egos between the virtuous District Attorney and the younger reporter. As the legal and psychological action heats up, viewers have to act as both judge and jury to determine the presented legal tyrants' ethical outcome.

If the reporter is telling the truth, the D.A.'s game is indeed cooked. But, if it's the reporter who's lying, the drama becomes even more complicated, because additional questions related to motive have to be addressed.

Interest

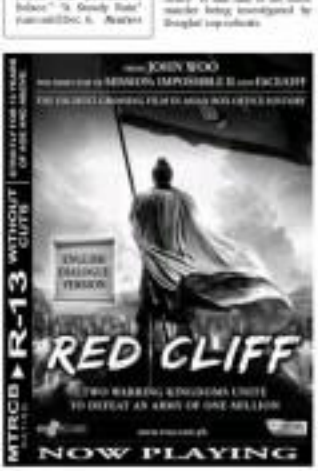
Tour enough, even, since "double" present themselves before the case is adjudicated, but underscoring the movie's thematic interest is the baffling, premeditation of truth, lies and the occasionally confounding spaces in between.

So, Douglas' character is no saint, but before the film's conclusion, other characters are also subjected to rigorous moral and ethical assault, the better for viewers to notice, at a more judicious appreciation of truth in human relationships, both in and out of the courtroom.

Private lives

The problem with many legal dramas is their tendency to end up as set pieces, with our predictable views suitably following another. "Beyond a Reasonable Doubt" aims to address this problem by opening up its drama to include many scenes outside the courtroom and inside her character's private lives. In addition, the film provides interesting information about how digital information can be subtly altered and compromised by criminal minds.

The drama gets even more personal when the District Attorney's young assistant (Jessica Sutherland) is made to fall in love with the reporter, and eventually has to stand up to her superior to save her lover's life. This does get to be rather melodramatic, but other twists and turns deepen the drama as they stalk and converge—and save the day.



The Manhattan Transfer, 40 years and still singing

NEW YORK—FORTY YEARS ago, Tim Hauser put together a sophisticated male singing group he hoped would make a few hits.

Well, the Manhattan Transfer went on to top music charts in Europe, dominate the US vocal jazz scene for four decades, win Grammys in pop and jazz, and even equal Michael Jackson's "Thriller" album for the most number of Grammy nominations.

Hit records

Hauser is still stunned by the success he and fellow singers, Alan Paul, Janis Siegel and Cheryl Bentyne, have achieved around the world. "I wanted to make a couple of hit records and work in the United States," Hauser told listeners in a recent interview.

Asked whether he imagined his group would still be making music 40 years later, he replied: "No, I never did. When you're young, you think about what's right in front of you—sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll! You don't think much of career and family."

But, that's how Bentyne describes the group—as family. "My daughter and Janis' son came on tour with us as babies," she recalled. "And, right now, she's in LA with Tim's family."

Like many families, each member of Manhattan Transfer has a voice—and a voice—in what songs they'll sing and record, where they will tour, or who will handle lyrics or arrangements for each song. But, like many musical acts, they often have differences of opinion.

"Creative differences? We thrive on them," Hauser laughed. "We don't agree on anything. It takes us forever to agree. But, certain guidelines have to transcend personal limitings. Underneath all of that, we genuinely like our audience. And, we understand that what we do collectively is greater than what we do individually."

New album

Right now Hauser operates as the de-facto manager of the vocal quartet, which just released its first new album in five years—"The Chick Corea Song book."

The record was inspired by the work of jazz great, Chick Corea, and features vocal interpretations of many of his popular compositions, including "Spain" and "500 Miles High." "He's just made this great album, and nobody managed us," quipped Hauser. "We all know the numbers, this isn't brain surgery."

MANHATTAN TRANSFER. Five group to simultaneously win Grammys in jazz and pop categories

Name

Manhattan Transfer—the name harks back to a 1925 novel by John Dos Passos—has won 12 Grammys and has been nominated for 17. In 1981, they were the first group to win Grammys in both the jazz and pop categories...for "Boy from New York City" (pop) and "Corner Pocket" (jazz).

Four years later, the group's tribute to Jon Hendricks, "Vocalese," earned 11 Grammy nominations, the same as Jackson's "Thriller" in 1984.

But, although it highlights their versatility, their range in music styles has also hurt the group, in this writer's opinion. "It was a problem for record execs, because they didn't know where to put us—jazz or pop. It was confusing. Some stores put us in both, but some didn't like doing that."

What really hits like "Operator," "Birdland" and "Chanson d'Amour," the group wanted to expand into more innovative music, but purist jazz fans didn't approve. Then, in 1978, Bentyne replaced Laurel Massé, who left to have her own family, and the group made "Extensions," an album that included the radio hit, "Twilight Zone."

"When Cheryl joined, the group and we changed. Europe completely closed its doors on us," Paul said. "That's when the change. They wanted us to stay the way we were. They wanted us to be a nostalgia group, stay in our tuxedos and suits."

Space suits

"We came out onstage in space suits designed by Jean-Paul Gaultier?" chimed in Bentyne. "European fans couldn't accept it. It took on review, up on it! 'Gaultier'—which was a Paul Jean affiliate...door opened up for door again," continued Paul.

Asked if it was like fans hearing Bob Dylan when he went electric, Alan said: "Exactly," Bentyne explained: what the group was trying to do. "We can't get stale—because then, it isn't an anymore, it's just repetition. It's a being bold and taking chances. If you don't get out of that ledge once in a while, what's the point?"

Manhattan Transfer is out on that ledge once again with the Chick Corea project, which should please jazz fans in Europe. But, what about the dwindling jazz enthusiasts at home? "European look at American jazz as an art form," answered Siegel. "They honor and cherish it, and they respond to it in a way many Americans don't. It's sad."

Reuters

Satisfy that sans rival craving

IN ONE OF MY RESTAURANT reviews or others, my close friends and I had to do a dining night. My theme was a Philippine dinner. I was supposed to prepare two dishes and a dessert. I had to come up with something unique, exotic, easy to prepare and, most of all, delicious. I had eight people under me and had to supervise the preparation and service.

My experiences with the famous restaurateur in Paris inspired me to choose dishes that showcased flavor in a wonderful way, like spare rib chili, grilled prawns with creamy crab fat sauce, and for dessert, sans rival. Making the dessert was so different that I had to do it five times before I felt it was good enough to serve.

Combination

Among desserts, the sumptuous sans rival is a sure winner. You can either have it crunchy or chewy. I love this combination of buttery cream, nuts and the crunch of baked egg whites.

A friend from Vancouver, Anson Legarde, makes a mean sans rival. On past birthdays, I would get sans rivas but not keep it to myself—it was that good. Another friend, Michelle Tantoco, once brought a fantastic mango sans rival from one of the bakeshops on Jinzong Yuno Extension. I have not encountered a sans rival of the same calibre since—until I met Jill Sandiquin Ortiz.

We were judging the Cuisine de Oro Bembles cooking competition with other chefs from Manila when Jill asked me if I had ever tried her sans rival. "Not yet," I answered. I was excited because I was aware of this pastry genius' reputation. It took three weeks before I received a "hello" marked "on" full of precious sans rival. She reminded me to keep them in the freezer if I wanted them crunchy, and in the fridge if I wanted them chewy.

Jill's sans rival was unique because it was made with pistachio nuts, instead of the usual peanuts. Pistachio sans rival? When I took my first bite, it made me burst with excitement! It was outstanding and truly "sa'kto-licious"!

If you want to satisfy that sans rival craving and experience the same ecstasy call Jill at 0922 828-2673 or 8917 777-7170. Happy eating!

E-mail: sandydaza@yahoo.ca